

/THE BULLETIN/

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 6 , No. 120

Greensburg, Indiana

January 1990

OCCASION: Thirtieth Annual  
Dinner Meeting of  
the Historical  
Society of Decatur  
County.

PLACE: Greensburg Presbyter-  
ian Church, NE corner  
of the Courthouse  
Square.

DATE: Sunday evening,  
Jan. 21, 1990 at  
6:30 P.M.

DINNER: By the ladies of the  
church. Dinner is  
\$6.00 each. Please  
reserve by check.  
Send it to Maurice  
Keith, RR# 1, Grbg.  
The deadline is the  
evening of Jan. 18th.

PROGRAM: The Society will be enter-  
tained by Judy Lamb & Agnes Wade of  
Indianapolis. They will present a  
program of music & narrations about  
the works of Irving Berlin. I can't  
think of any better music than that  
of the song writer, Mr. Berlin.  
Sounds like there is a delightful  
evening in store for all. This is  
one you can't miss. See you.

WESTPORT COVERED BRIDGE A group of  
interested folks from the Westport  
community headed up by, I believe,  
John Oldham have refurbished the  
old bridge. You ought to go take a  
look at it. They hope to give the  
roof another coat of paint this  
spring. If you would like to help  
them financially, send your money  
to the Historical Society treasurer  
Maurice Keith. This is a fine  
project.

FALL MEETING A goodly number of  
Society members were entertained at  
the Presbyterian Church by a program

of historical films. Two video  
films, "The Automobile-Born in  
Indiana", and "The Hoosier Poet  
(life of James W. Riley)" were  
enjoyed by the group. Refresh-  
ments and conversation were  
served after the showing. Pat  
Smith and Bill Hunter were in  
charge of the afternoon.

\* \* \* \* \*

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM

Tri Kappa Sorority  
Edna Martin Circle , Sardinia  
Baptist Church  
Airstream Tour Group

GIFTS to Society

Mr. & Mrs. Gilman Stewart  
Elizabeth W. Musser  
James Shannon  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Townsend

MEMORIALS

In memory of Howard Aldridge  
by Mrs. Howard Aldridge  
WESTPORT COVERED BRIDGE FUND  
In memory of Ollie (Surface)  
Wanner by Loretta Graf.  
Helen Parker  
Van P. Batterton in memory of  
Victoria Woolverton

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

The Market

At a public sale of negroes in  
Daklonega, Lumpkin County, on  
the 7th inst. the following  
prices were paid: A boy 17 yr.  
old \$1,104, a girl 19 \$1,150.50,  
Two boys the eldest 11 yrs. old  
\$860 & 822, a woman 35 yrs. old  
and child 4 yrs. old \$1,012,  
two small children \$650.

Dec. Rep. May 8, 1857

## SPRINGS, "CRULLS (?)," AND SCHOOLS

By: Anna J. Foley

In the November '89 issue of THE BULLETIN Editor Van asks the location of the Greensburg Medical Spring, where a picnic was to have been held in 1857. A possibility is the farm on which I grew up. This was on the west side of the Millhousen Road, about two miles from town.

Some readers may remember the old Barnes Schoolhouse in that area, directly opposite a house on the east side of the road. There was a spring in a low place a little north of the schoolhouse. On the Beers ATLAS map of Washington Township the schoolhouse is shown as School Number 12, on the farm of G.B. Barnes, Senior.

Before my time, people "lived at the spring." Still earlier, I understand a Dr. Wheeldon (?) had a sanitarium there. The water was thought to be medicinal because it contained sulphur. I don't know when the sanitarium was in operation.

The spring overflowed, creating a swampy spot where a plant called calamus grew. Its leaves resembled those of iris, and had a peppery taste at the root end. The water had a thin oily scum on top; I can't recall whether it also had a sulphur smell. The spring wasn't our regular source of water, and I drank from it only as a novelty.

At the spring were a crabapple tree and a tulip tree, but the house was gone. It---or part of it---had been reincarnated as a chickenhouse of two rooms with a kind of porch between them. The rooms had dwelling house-type windows and doors, the doors opening on the porch. For a chickenhouse, the structure was fairly deluxe.

The approximate site of the spring can be seen from the road. I think the spring was made into a pond quite a while ago, and I seem to recall talk of putting a race track near by. I'm not sure whether there is a house on the site at present.

The remnants of the Barnes Schoolhouse were removed in comparatively recent times, after the building had fallen down little by little. If still standing, it would probably be approaching 100 years of age. I believe it was the second school house which had stood there.

Regarding the "crulls (?), a fried food mentioned in Mrs. Stimson's "Reminiscences." I will venture the guess that they were crullers, cousins to doughnuts.

Mrs. Stimson speaks of the Clemons Schoolhouse and of a school in a log meeting house "down the Madison Road". I think this meeting house would have been the Cross Roads Church of the play about the census taker. I don't know exactly where the Clemons School was, but it was in operation during at least part of my childhood. Its bell could be heard on the Millhousen (Madison) Road.

Mrs. Stimson also speaks of a later schoolhouse "perched on the right hand hilltop beyond Sand Creek." I Can't picture such a location, but the map does show a tributary of Sand Creek near the probable site of the log meetinghouse, and the land is hilly along there.

Also on the map is the name of Nancy Tisdale, next to Sand Creek Cemetery. I believe Mrs. Tisdale was Mrs. Stimson's mother. As a child, I heard the place spoken of as Stimson's, but think Mrs. Stimson had already moved away. The first people I can remember there were named Taylor. I was better acquainted on the "Madison Road" than on the "other road", i.e. the Michigan Road, now U.S. 421, which Mrs. Stimson called "29". There may have been people I don't recall before the Taylors.

\$     \$     \$     \$     \$     \$     \$     \$     \$     \$     \$

#### A WEEK IN THE "REVIEW"

By: Anna J. Foley

The following items are from THE SATURDAY REVIEW for September 3, 1892. The REVIEW was a weekly paper published in Greensburg with offices in the Montgomery Building on East Main Street, Phone No. 8, editors, Montgomery and Willoughby. Rates were \$1.00 per year in Decatur County and \$1.25 outside the county, "always in advance."

The REVIEW carried many items of only a line or two, chiefly in columns entitled "Local Letters; A Mirror of the Every Day Doings of the Week," and "Personal Intelligence; Short Paragraphs Concerning People We All Know." The "Washington City" column was a regular political feature and "Literary Notes" commented on the contents of magazines which has come to the REVIEW's attention.

Eighteen ninety-two was an election year. The REVIEW was aggressively Republican with nothing good to say about the Democrats. Unfortunately, there is no way of knowing what the REVIEW's opposite number, THE NEW ERA, had to say about the Republicans. Surely, though, it gave as good as it got.

#### NEWS

##### Politics

Some Republican candidates were Benjamin Harrison for President; Ira J. Chase for Governor of Indiana; David A. Myers for prosecuting Attorney, Eighth District. There was also a local election.

The Republican campaign in Decatur County was to open on September 10 with a speaking in the Court House park. A republican glee club had been organized and was expected to be heard to the party's advantage.

The REVIEW reminded Republicans--but not voters generally--that they would lose their votes by moving to different townships or precincts after certain dates. "Republicans, be on your guard!" (Against wily Democrats who might try to get you to move??)



"Washington City", under the headline "Cholera", reported a possibility that cholera might be brought into the United States by immigrants. A fund for keeping out cholera had been cut by "petty economies," apparently of Democratic origin, so that there was insufficient money to impose a quarantine, should one become necessary. "Local Letters" said, "Get ready for the cholera!"

The REVIEW seems to have been a sore loser. If it rejoiced in Harrison's good luck in Decatur County, that fact was recorded in the fine print. In the large print were gloomy forebodings in rhyme.

"It Is All Over  
And the Victor's Name is Grover  
Now Milk and Honey Will Flow  
And the McKinley Bill Will Go (a tariff bill?)  
Working Men Will Get Four Dollars A Day  
And Receive Wild Cat Money For Their Pay."

These words were the headline for the REVIEW's analysis of the election.

#### OTHER NEWS

##### Fairs

The county fair has just had one of the biggest days in its history. "Henry Thorpe did a land office business in watermelons, but the lemonade men lost sales because of the cool weather." So did the operators of the "innocent games of chance," which were poorly patronized.

Exhibits mentioned were livestock; machinery, including windmills; household goods, sewing machines; pet birds; flowers. John Gayer's mare Adams Girl took second money in the three-year trot. First place went to Black Vic and third to Glencoe, owners' names not given.

The Greensburg Limestone Company sent a delegation of over 300 to the fair, all wearing blue badges to call attention to the size of the stone industry in the county. The quarry workers and their supervisor, Lindsey Jackson, were a fine looking, well behaved group.

The Indiana State Fair would be exceeded only by the World's Fair. The State Fair could be reached by two railroads and three electric street car lines. The fairgrounds, with picturesque walks and drives, were in a beautiful grove on Fall Creek. Buildings were new and modern, and each of the various types of product on display had its own exhibit hall. There was a complete water system on the fairgrounds.

The World's Fair would take place in Chicago (in 1893?). C.D. Tillson was offering a pass to the fair. Details were available "at the sign of the big watch."

##### City Park Place

This was a development projected for the northwest part of



the city. Its primary purpose was to induce a carriage factory to locate in Greensburg. An opportunity existed for obtaining the necessary land if the money to buy it could be raised by a certain time. Lots were on sale and the REVIEW published lists of purchasers, who were numerous.

Articles of Association had been adopted at a meeting at the Grand Opera House.

Art. I, Name: The Greensburg Improvement Association.

Art. III, Purpose: To promote and encourage the mechanical arts, and to buy and sell real estate in Decatur County.

Art. VII, Directors: For the first year, William B. Hamilton, Marshall Grover, John H. Christian, Louis Lathrop, David A. Myers.

Art. XIII, Membership: All purchasers of lots for not less than \$150.00.

Investment was described as a sure thing; apparently the investors were to get their money back if the purchase deadline were not met. Said the REVIEW, "Let the carriage factory be rushed."

City Park Place was not to be purely industrial, but was to include residential areas and a park as well. Its boundaries were a street to be called Seventh on the north; First Street on the south; Anderson Street on the east, and Park on the west. The factory was to be in the north part of the tract near the railroad.

Did the carriage factory come? I think so. The money was a little late coming in, but the street work had been started. Carver Street had been extended, and was "beautiful."

### Old Soldiers

A reunion of Civil War veterans was to be held in Greensburg in October. The GAR was having a national encampment in Washington, D.C. Three meals a day could be obtained for \$1.00, with cold lunches day or night at restaurant rates. Barracks would be provided for those who had not arranged housing in advance.

### Railroad

The Big Four was employing something over 100 men in and near the city. When the new water tank at the passenger station was used for the first time, the water could not be shut off and a small flood resulted. The railroad company was expecting to service an average of twenty-seven engines every twenty-four hours with about 2000 gallons of water per engine. This water would be metered.

Big Four passenger schedule: East bound, five trains daily and two on Sunday only.  
West bound, four daily; one Sunday only.

Scrapbook, about August, 1887

A New Steam Laundry.

"In a commendable spirit of enterprise, Will E. Cumback has decided to introduce a new industry in Greensburg and does not allow the grass to grow under his feet in carrying out his plans. He purchased last week in Chicago a complete outfit for a steam laundry, on the latest and most improved plan and expects to have the same in successful operation in this city inside of one month. The machinery will not be shipped for two weeks yet and the interim will be spent in preparation for its reception. Mr. Cumback will secure the help necessary to operate the establishment in the best manner and give satisfaction to patrons and give his personal attention to the business. If all the laundry which is sent from this city to the various city laundries could be kept at home, as it will be, success is assured. There has been a Chinese laundry here some months which has been exporting Greensburg cash to China at the rate of about \$30.00 per week and has been advertising for more help, which may also succumb to the pressure of the new establishment. In addition to local work Lawrenceburg, Batesville, Rushville, and similar and smaller towns will be solicited for trade. We are pleased to note the establishing of this new business here and would like to see our capitalists also putting money into industrial establishments tending to bring money into the town." (The paper would have liked to see the Chinese laundry squeezed out?)

Scrapbook, probably summer 1882

The public rack was unusually well filled with teams on Saturday. Not a vacant place on the four sides of the public square." (So what's new?)

Summer, 1885

"Miss Icy Snow Frost, a handsome and accomplished young lady of Harrison, O., is visiting Carrie and Sylvia Emmert, at present."

"Miss Fannie Gillespie got a severe fall Monday night, while crossing the ditch embankment which ornaments the South side of Central Avenue, for a couple of squares. She has been confined to her bed ever since.

\* \* \* \* \*

REMNISCENCES prepared by Mrs. E.C. Stimson for the HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Conclusion.....

One eccentric teacher distributed a stick of pink and white candy, two sugar kisses and six raisins to each pupil. This district school had an ideal play ground for winter sports--coasting down the hill on sleds, skating on the frozen ice of the creek, or vigorous snow balling were enjoyed by both boys and girls. I have spoken of transportation on the road prior to the coming of the railroad. After a few trains had been established on that and a local stock yard started, buyers collected the cattle and hogs from

the farms, drove them into it and loaded them upon freight trains, which carried them to the distant markets. One long familiar sight on "29" was the loaded wagons of cord wood which punctually passed between nine and ten A.M. with its supply of fuel for the town. Sometimes a dozen of these teams were in one train. Number "29" lost two dwellings by destructive fires. One a frame on the Madison road corner--the other the brick home at "Locust Grove". There have also been tragedies. A school boy was shaken from the foot log by the ice flood and carried down the stream to his death while the horrified pupils stood helpless on the banks. One dark stormy night two neighbors were returning from delivering stock in town and their frightened, blinded team plunged from the bridge on Cobbs Fork to the rocky bottom below with death for teams and men. Sometimes there were exciting renaways. Once a thirsty team of oxen left the road and plunged in deep water. There was also frequent excitement when men had lingered too long in the saloon of the town. A few of these on their homeward journey made night hideous with yells, singing or profanity. Once a party of these riding in a spring wagon, both men and women, had this experience. One of the number sat on the back seat and swayed back and forth with the motion of the wagon. It struck a stone and the jolt threw the reeling man under the wheels which passed over him. One women screamed Oh! Jake he fall out. The others looked, echoed the words and finally stopped the team. Two of the soberer ones went back to the prostrate "lump!" A woman who had seen the whole performance, offered a two gallon bucket of water and cup to aid his revival. They poured the water on his head. In a quarter of an hour, his first thick words were I'm cool enough now--I'm all right, and they dragged and lifted him and rolled him into the wagon. At present homes are close together. Four or five have filled the vacant places between the solitary ones of these days. For many miles into the country not a living descendent of those 40's and '50's has a home.

¶   ¶   ¶   ¶   ¶   ¶   ¶   ¶   ¶   ¶

#### MEMBERSHIPS and MEMORIALS

Historical Society of Decatur County, Inc.  
P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN. 47240

Yearly Membership \$5.00

Payable by January 1st.

Life Membership \$100.00

☐ Renewal

☐ New

☐ Gift

☐ Life

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

IF GIFTS: From \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

#### MEMORIALS

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



### SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

President.....William H. Hunter  
N. Stewart St. Grbg.  
Phone: 663-5479  
1st. V. Pres.....Readawn Metz  
2nd. V. Pres.....John A. Westhafer  
Rec. Sec.....Juanita Beall  
Cor. Sec.....Peg Miller  
Treas.....Maurice Keith

### DIRECTORS

Diana Swegman  
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Allan Beall  
John Parker

### EDITOR OF BULLETIN

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Greensburg, IN. 47240

### MUSEUM TRUSTEES

Jackie Mendenhall  
Earl Vanderbur  
Allan Beall  
Marjorie Hunter  
John Oliger

### MUSEUM CURATOR

Jackie Mendenhall  
663-8277

### MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Lee Lauderdale  
663-2769

### SOCIETY'S AGENT

William H. Robbins

### COUNTY HISTORIAN

Dale Myers  
663-4370

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
DECATUR COUNTY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 163  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA 47240

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1251-1252  
Mr. & Mrs. Shel Smith  
518 N. East  
Greensburg, IN 47240

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 6 , No. 121

Greensburg, Indiana

May 1990

OCCASION: Spring meeting of the  
Decatur County Historical Society.

PLACE: Greensburg Presbyterian Church, So. entrance.

DATE: May 20, 1990. 2:30 PM

PROGRAM: Ruth Dorrell, editor of the genealogist magazine published by the State Historical Society, will give a program of various aspects of the state society and genealogy in general. Ruth comes highly recommended, lives in St. Paul. I do not know if she is on the Decatur side, but she must be good. She has worked at the Historical Society for some time, which has to be a very interesting way to make a living. I am not sure of the title of her talk, but I'm sure the contents will be such that you must not miss this get together. Come early for a good seat. See you there.

HELP - Articles and stories pertaining to history of the area are needed for the Bulletin. If you do not feel up to writing the item, just send a rough draft of the particulars to the editor. He will attempt to write it up or get someone who will, thank you.

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THANKS - The editor of this paper wished to recognize & thank those folks who have contributed so many fine stories & articles to the Bulletin. They are: Bill Parker, John Parker, Pat Smith, Anna Jo Foley & Allan Beall. These contributors have made the editor's life very pleasant.

MEMBERSHIP The number of members in the Society has been on the downward trend this past few years. The organization needs a revival along these lines. It would be fine if each member could influence someone new to join up. Why not try this from now until the summer meeting?

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

George Metz, Jr.  
Jacqueline Schryer - Hampton, VA.  
Mrs. William G. (Charlotte)  
Kincaid

Brian R. Keith  
Mrs. Brian R. (Tina) Keith  
Walter Schott  
Mrs. Tom (Glenda) Porter

DONATIONS

Ed Doerflinger

DUES

If there is a red star on your address label, it's a reminder to pay your dues for 1990. \$5.00 per member per year.

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ANNUAL MEETING was held at the Presbyterian Church, Sunday evening, Jan. 21st. The ladies of the church furnished a delightful meal for over 100 faithful members of the Society. A short business meeting was conducted by president Bill Hunter, bringing before the group various aspects of the organization, such as; needed repairs of the museum building, the raising of money to help with this, an increase of members, a suggested old house tour in the fall, etc. The program of music & narration of Irving Berlin's life by Judy Lamb and Agnes Wade of Indianapolis was just real fine. A very enjoyable evening.

## EARLY RAILROADS IN DECATUR COUNTY

At a session of the State Legislature of 1835-1836 an act of incorporation was provided for the Lawrenceburg and Indianapolis railway to pass through Napoleon, Greensburg, St. Omer and Shelbyville. A company was soon organized and considerable stock subscribed along the line. The financial crash of 1837 stopped its operation and the company was wiped out with the stockholders losing all they had paid in. A point south of St. Omer part of the fill for the original railroad may still be seen. The old stone abutments just south of the Brookville road at the east edge of Greensburg are still intact and stand as a grim reminder of the hard work and big expenditure of money which went into the lost enterprise.

In 1847-1848 another charter was obtained for the Lawrenceburg to Rushville and the line was to pass about six miles northeast of Greensburg. Aroused citizens of Greensburg blocked this move by a petition and by the citizens pledging to buy stock, the line was changed to go through Greensburg.

In the fall of 1852 the railroad entered Decatur County east of a town called Crackaway, and they established a new point on the line and in the summer of 1853, that first "Choo Choo" was pulled by a dinky engine christened the "Stephen Ludlow" rolled into Greensburg. Fred Lungen was the engineer and Jacob Mills was the conductor. The engine was named for Stephen Ludlow, one of the incorporators of the railroad. In November of 1853 the track was completed to Indianapolis.

Abundant timber was available for bridges, ties and fuel, but the iron for the track as well as the locomotive had to be brought in from the outside. Rails were brought from Liverpool England to New Orleans then up the Mississippi and Ohio River to Lawrenceburg. Most of the locomotives and cars were made in Boston and Philadelphia. At first the track was covered with a flimsy strip of iron but was soon changed to the heavier "T" rails.

At first the width of various lines were not uniform and sometimes a third rail was laid to make adjustments to handle cars from other lines. The equipment was crude and breakdowns were very common and frequently involved hazard to life and limb of passengers and even more to farm animals on the track.

Harry Minning, a local railroader who was an Uncle to Don Minning of Greensburg, told me that people would cut wood and pile it up along the track and when they needed wood for the engine they would stop and load on some. Also the water tank was filled by dipping a supply of water from some wayside stream with leather buckets which were carried on hooks at the side of the tender. From this practice we get the term "jerkwater" railroad which is still in use today. Going down a grade or stop, the engineer would blow his whistle and the brakeman in the engine and caboose would apply the brakes by hand on top of the individual cars and release them when they wanted to start or go up a grade.



Murray Gordon, who wrote, "Twigs from the Tower Tree" in the local paper several years ago told about hearing stories of hundreds of laborers most of them foreigners, were employed on construction of the road bed. They were mostly illiterate and very primitive in their ways of living. They lived in makeshift camps along the right-of-way and worked long hours for meager food and a few pennies a day. Also he heard stories that when a mad died on the job his body was tossed into the fill without ceremony. These are just stories however and probably originated in the fertile imagination of those who delighted in adding their own bits of drama to the actual facts.

The Vernon, Greensburg and Rushville Railroad was chartered in July 1897 and was completed in July 1881.

The Hope and Greensburg Railroad was chartered in January 1880 and was opened between Greensburg and Columbus in April 1884.

The three lines running through Greensburg were consolidated in 1899 to form the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad or the Big Four Route and make part of the New York Central System.

The Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad ran from the Pacific Ocean, east to the town of Westport, a distance of 2487 miles in 1890 to connect with the New York Central System. Westport has the distinction of having the eastern most terminal on a western railroad.

Before 1850 it required one or two weeks to handle merchandise in oxen carts from Greensburg to Indianapolis or Cincinnati over mud roads. The train could make the trip in less than one day.

In 1890 over 75 miles of track were in operation in Decatur County and going in five different directions from Greensburg and not counting the private railroad owned by the Harris City Stone Company that connected with the Lawrenceburg, Indianapolis line and later with the Vernon, Greensburg line.

In the 100 years the railroad was in business it brought new settlers, broke down rural isolation, transformed villages into cities, brought far reaching changes in agriculture and everyday life and hastened the beginning of mining and industry and contributed to the growth and prosperity to the people of Decatur County.

Submitted by: John E. Parker 1989

# # # # # # # # # # # #

AN OLD BRICK HOUSE JUST OFF THE SQUARE

There is a house in Greensburg of which you might not be aware. We find it on north Franklin a few steps from the square. No prizes will it take for it's convenience and its style,

But is surely beats all the rest by its character a mile,  
Of old red brick and timber of oak and poplar true.  
Those old time craftsmen built much better than they knew.  
Of sweat and skill they used in full measure and to spare  
To build a grand old home just off the public square.  
Now the Lathrops and the Shannons in this old house did dwell,  
And they gave to it its personality, it isn't hard to tell.  
Let's leave the busy street with its commerce and its hustle,  
And tarry on the porch and listen to the maples rustle.  
Lean way back in that old swing and close your eyes and dare  
To dream of days gone by in that old house so very near the square.  
I hear a voice calling from the doorway opened wide,  
Welcome to the museum and won't you please to step inside.  
We want to show you our keepsakes, both very great and small.  
And won't you sign the register on the table in the hall.  
Now come into the parlor to view all the treasures there.  
They are here to be admired so go ahead and stare.  
A grand piano and settee, and some ladies dresses, oh so fine.  
And the chandelier, how the light from it does shine.  
Now into the hallway with all the pictures on the wall  
Of the folks who lived here and the grand old clock so tall.  
Next the sitting room with fireplace and full bookshelf,  
Drink it all in, and at home make yourself.  
There are many more rooms with items dear and rare.  
In this old brick house that's just beyond the square.  
Oh, the dining room and kitchen, you mustn't overlook.  
Why, the things in these rooms would fill a grant book.  
And don't forget the toy room, most important of all.  
Here's where kids of all ages will surely have a ball.  
Let's climb the stairway to see what's on the upper floor.  
There's sure to be some treasures behind that bedroom door.  
Here we find an old rope bed with coverlet and baby cradle rare.  
We have the hallway yet and another room, I wonder what's in there?  
There are so many things. Where did they come from I do declare?  
That old brick house is surely full so very near the square.  
Oh, but you haven't seen near all, dear friend.  
Out to the garage we found it necessary to extend,  
So please to follow me out this way,  
And view the queer old gadgets on display,  
That were used by every farmer in days gone past.  
There's a shock tier, a shucking peg, and a shoemaker's list.  
How many of these are in a modern store?  
Durn few I betcha, that's for shore.  
Here's an old fire truck, a buggy and a lady's sidesaddle.  
If a body tried to remember all this his brain would addle.  
I extend this invitation to one and all  
To visit this old museum and you will fall  
In love with it as so many have and want to share  
The many treasures of this old house just a few steps from the square.

By: Allan L. Beall the po-ate

EXCERPTS - From Oscar Miller's Memoirs

During the Spring of 1894 there were to be officers selected nomination to be elected at the coming city election. The Republican Central Committee, through its chairman, announced that a mass convention would be held at the Big Wigwam, at the corner of Monfort and Washington Streets, to select by ballot the candidates for the various offices of the city. This notice announced the day and hour in May when this mass convention would be held. The candidates so chosen at this Republican convention would be voted on at the regular fall election in November.

Richard Elder had already announced or made it known that he would be a candidate for the office of mayor. I had not thought of being a candidate for any political office, as I was doing very well in learning to practice law. Cicero Northern had announced his intention to be a candidate on the Democrat ticket. Jim Caskey told me he thought I would make a formidable candidate for mayor, if I wanted it. The bee began to buzz around by ear, and it sounded like a political bee. Jim Caskey was one of the wheel horses of the Republican party. I had stumped the county for him and Tosh Hendricks in the campaign of 1888, and they were friendly to me. Besides this, Caskey was an editorial writer on a Greensburg paper. I had a talk with Judge Moore, and he had no objections to my making the try. It would be quite an honor, if I wanted the office.

I thought about the matter, and the bee still continued to buzz with now and then a sort of hum that seemed like it would fly away and let me alone. But in a day or so it would come back and set us a buzz that seemed to be a constant humming noise that did not annoy me, but seemed to be encouraging. So in this state of my political aspirations I concluded to cast my hat in the ring and find out how my political fortunes would come out. There were about twenty-two saloons in town; and while I never patronized them, I never did anything to antagonize them. Judge Moore would slip into Andy Rader's backdoor, now and then, and get a "good snort" of his wine or beer. One day he said he was in conversation with Charley Fromer, who ran a saloon a little further down on Broadway, and he told the Judge that he liked me very much. I also noticed that as soon as I became a candidate, a lot of this class of people were very friendly with me, and some of the sporting class sent word to ask how I intended to treat them. Of course, I told them it would be bad politics for me to make any promises to anyone, but if I were elected mayor, I should treat everyone justly. I said I had no friends to reward or any persons to punish. A lot of fellows came to me saying they expected to work for me. I always shook their hands and thanked them. Some claimed they could control a lot of votes. To this class of fellows I would thank them for their support, but always intimated that I had no campaign funds that were available. The Era was the only newspaper that I feared might be against me if I got the nomination. It was run by James E. Mendenhall, and he had married into the Ewing family, and the Ewings were my friends, although they were all Democrats.



I did not make much of a canvass, but I did meet a lot of people and did a good deal of handshaking. I did not have to shake hands with or electioneer the women, as they could not vote at that time; but I would smile whenever I thought it might influence a vote. But I never kissed the babies.

At last the day of the mass convention came on. By 7:30 the Big Wigwam was crowded to its limits, even the long balcony was well filled by people who had come there to see how a mass convention would be conducted. Richard Elder, my opponent, was there circulating around among the crowd and elbowing the old men to get the soldier vote. There was a big hum of voices and a good deal of pulling and hauling of the politicians for their favorite candidates. As for me, I had no organization, but went into the convention as a free lance, hoping that I would likely have a fair chance of getting the nomination. Judge Moore and I drifted around and got up on the stage. From this point of view we could see the pushing and surging that was going on among the tremendous crowd of people on the main floor. Among the crowd I saw a fellow whose nickname was "Shanty" Hawkins. He had drifted in from the Ohio River and gotten his name from having once lived in a shanty boat down on the big river. He had married a daughter of Chris Seitz, former owner of the Seitz Hotel. He had a big group of men around him, and was talking to them very earnestly. From his manouvers, I thought he was electioneering for me.

James E. Caskey, who was the big boss of the Republican Party, was the chairman of the convention; and after he had allowed the crowd to buzz, talk and wire-pull for about an hour, he took up the gavel and called the convention to order. He announced the purposes of the convention, to nominate candidates for mayor, city clerk, city treasurer and eight city councilmen. I never saw such a conglomerate mass of humanity as was crowded together in that large hall. There were doctors, lawyers, preachers, merchants, mechanics and men of all classes and professions. To this number was added a few saloon keepers and some of their customers, who had tuned up before coming to the convention. For be it known, some republicans as well as Democrats would tune up a little on festive occasions. My friend, Jim Clemons, the town marshal, was going about among the crowd to see that things were kept on an even keel. Everybody seemed to be happy and having a bully good time. Caskey was having some trouble in preserving order. He sounded the gavel; and when order was obtained, he appointed "Shanty" Hawkins and two other men to take charge of the ballot box. He then said, "You may now prepare your ballots for councilman in the first ward;" and those voters living in that ward were entitled to vote. Three men were appointed to canvass and count the ballots and announce the result. Then came the balloting for councilmen in the second ward, and following in secession the other two wards until all councilmen were chosen in regular order for all the wards of the city.

The chairman then ordered that voting for city clerk should then be in order. This went through very nicely; but when an order for voting for city treasurer came there was some commotion and some opposition to one of the candidates, but this was ruled out of order and the voting went on. In each case the ballot box was taken

up on the stage and surrendered to the committee to count the votes and announce the result. I was gratified to know that my friend Edward Siling was the chosen candidate.

Then came the order for voting for mayor. The voting for a candidate for this office was, for some cause, held by the chairman to be voted on as the last office of the evening. I noticed that there was considerably more interest shown as this voting proceeded than for the other offices. When the votes were all in, "Shanty" Hawkins, who has charge of the ballot box, stumbled and fell down and scattered the ballots all over the floor. But he and the others who had charge of the box picked up all the ballots that could be found and turned them over to the three men who were appointed to do the counting. This performance, "pulled off" by Hawkins, brought on a big commotion, and a demand was made that the vote be taken over. My opponent and his friends were insisting that the ballot be taken over. I remained quiet and said nothing. Jim Caskey, the chairman, said that a recount at this stage of the convention was all out of order, and ordered that the committee proceed with the counting of the ballots, which was done. I do not now remember the figures of this count, but I was nominated for mayor by almost two to one on the final count. It was then pronounced that I was the successful candidate for mayor.

At this announcement, there went up tremendous cheers and some got so enthusiastic that hats were thrown into the air. I got a wonderful ovation. Judge Moore said to me, "You had better get up on a chair and make them a speech, but don't say much." The stage was full of people standing up. So I climbed up on a chair, and when the crowd below saw me, the cheering became vociferous. I waved my hands for silence. I did not say much. I thanked them for the wonderful support they had given me, and said, "if I am elected mayor, I will endeavor to give that office my best attention in always looking to the best interests of the city and the people who live here."

It was my first introduction into city politics. I soon found that I was not a hardened politician, ready to take the quips, slurs and invectives that might be hashed up by the press. The day after my nomination the New Era came out in a long article, lambasting the things that went on at the city mass convention. It magnified the irregularities of the entire proceedings and told about the "fraudulent fiasco" performed by "Shanty" Hawkins in picking up and running away with the ballot box and making a feint as though he had caught his foot and fallen down so he could mix up the ballots. The fact that he fell down was merely a ruse so he could throw a lot of spurious ballots that he held in his hand and mix them with the ones that had been voted. The article went on to say that the crowd at this mass convention was the most conglomerate and disorderly set of rowdies ever assembled in the city. The carrying on by the hoodlums that seemed to have charge of that convention was disreputable and disgraceful in the extreme. And the respectable citizens and voters of this fair city will certainly remember the disorderly orgies enacted at this mass convention and vote not to get such a bunch of irresponsible men in possession of the city government. In this article the paper did not find any fault directed at me or the other candidates, but vented its spleen at the crowd that composed the personnel of the convention.

THIS WILL CONTINUE IN THE SUMMER ISSUE OF:  
THE BULLETIN

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Van P. Batterton  
525 N. Broadway St.  
Greensburg, IN. 47240

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
DECATUR COUNTY, INC.  
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GREENSBURG, INDIANA 47240

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1251-1252  
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Vol. 6 , No. 123

Greensburg, Indiana

November 1990

OCCASION: Fall Meeting of the  
Decatur County Historical Society.

PLACE: Greensburg Presbyterian  
Church, South entrance.

DATE: November 11, 1990  
2:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: Will be announced by  
radio & Newspaper.

Summer Meeting was held in the  
Presbyterian Church, August 5th  
with quite a few of the faithful  
in attendance. Jackie Mendenhall  
was in charge of the program  
which consisted of video inter-  
views with some of the old timers  
about the great depression of the  
thirties. Quite interesting, the  
film is at the local library, if  
anyone would like to see it.  
August 15th Morgan Miers conducted  
a tour to the State Fair, espec-  
ially to see the Farm Museum of  
Purdue. Several members took part  
in this adventure.

#### Genealogical Quieries

I would welcome correspondence re-  
garding my WILSON family. I do  
not know when or where Issac &  
Anna WILSON died. Robert, b. 1778,  
died 1833. Nancy m. 1843 John  
Miller who died 1848. Nancy died  
1883 at the age of 97, but where  
remains a mystery. (Doris Wilson  
McCave, 2013 Kynwyd Rd. Wilmington,  
De. 19810.

Wish to contact descendants  
of JOHN F. STEVENS, be. 2 April  
1814, Jeff. City, IN. and MARTHA  
GROVER whom he married in Greens-  
burg 15 Oct. 1844. John murdered  
10 June 1863 while acting as  
Draft Commissioner. Had 3 sons,  
3 dau. Am interested in John &  
Martha's ancestry. (Helen McCord  
207 Spring St., Catskill, NY 12414

SOCIETY'S THANKS goes to Lois  
Laskowski for the excellent Herb  
Garden she has established, and  
cared for in the backyard of the  
Museum. Also, thanks to the Garden Club  
for the flowers they have cul-  
tivated about the Museum.

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Paul Walston  
Doris Wilson McCave, Wilmington, DE.

#### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Charles A. Hessler, Indianapolis,

#### MEMORIAL

Given by Christina Flint Small  
in memory of her cousin,  
Dorothea Miller.

////////////////////////////////////

#### CURE FOR HYDROPHOBIA

As the season for the prevalence  
of this terrible disease is  
arriving, we shall do the public  
an essential service by pro-  
mulgating a knowledge of the  
following cure, which we have  
received from an attentive friend,  
on whose work implicit reliance  
may be placed: "Friend McMakin:  
I send you the following receipt,  
which is said to be an infallible  
remedy to cure the bite of a mad  
dog: One gill of grated alecam-  
pane boiled in one pont of new  
milk, until it is reduced to a  
half pint. Dose, three table-  
spoonsful two hours before break-  
fast three mornings in seccession,  
and then miss three mornings,  
until it has been taken nine  
mornings. This remedy is well  
known and used in the neighborhood  
of Nicetown, and there are many  
persons living there who have been  
cured by this simple means.

# # # # #

Submitted by: PAT SMITH

Months ago Van asked me to write something for this publication and suggested that the Star Barn might be a subject to pursue. The Star Barn is one of those buildings that many of us, those who have never had any dealings with it, drive past and seldom really see. The first thing I did, therefore, was to go take a look at the building.

First of all, it's large, and second, it's old. Large speaks for itself, you can get an idea of how large it is by just sticking your head inside the door. You can get an idea of its age when you see the huge planks that make the floor - likewise, the framing timbers that were used when such wood was plentiful.

of course, it's the history of the business that's been conducted in the barn that's of interest but that was difficult to come by. What follows is the little I was able to find plus the memories of some who remember the earlier days of the Star Barn. Not a lot of documented information was found but it is my hope that those readers who have memories of the Star Barn will write them down and send them to Van. It would be of interest to many and would be a way of preserving what information is available.

The Star Barn is located on the corner of S. Michigan Ave. and McKee Street. At one time the horse sales, held in the barn each week, attracted buyers from many states. The sales were held once a week until the start of World War II. During the War the sales were halted but were started again when the War ended. Any kind of animal could be purchased at the barn including cattle, goats, sheep, hogs, horses, ponies, and mules.

The history of the barn as a sale barn began in January, 1920 but, as Wm. Parker states later, it's history goes back many years before that.

At one time the lunch counter was a gathering place for local residents and visitors. Bob Shaw told me, "My! The groceries that went through that lunch room! It was so crowded that most of the time it was impossible to find a place to park."

At one time, in the late 1960's, there was a veterinarian located in the building. Dr. Joseph W. Green moved his practice to the barn from Danville. He had studied at Texas A & M Univ., graduating in 1943, and later got his masters, in re-production and nutrition, from Purdue Univ. He was a former head of the State Veterinary Board. I give that background to help those who aren't familiar with the barn, an idea of how big an operation the barn has been in the past.

Bob Shaw said, "When we were kids Burl Broadus and I used to drive the pigs and cattle. Our job was to keep them off people's yards. Sometimes there would be a renegade and there would be a little excitement. They'd give us a dime for doing that." It's hard for us to imagine today that hogs and cattle were driven up or down Michigan Ave. or McKee street.

John Oliger has other memories of the barn. "My cousins, the Oligers, lived nearby and we kids would go over to the barn and try talking them into letting us ride the horses."

Gerald Strasburger, who owns the cleaning plant just south of the barn, remembers when it was a busy place. His dad, Joseph, owned it at one time. Other owners have included (but not limited to) Will Critser, Don Peters, Farrell Winkler, Kelly Smith, Charles Barns (The first owners to operate it only as a sale barn,) Robert and Wm. Hatton, Mr. & Mrs. Robert (Lefty) Phelps, Rucker, Nelson, Carrol and Sterling Triimble. Leon Clemons owned the building in December 1919 when it was sold to Smith and Barns. The present owner is Bob Cross from Sunman.

When I interviewed L. Wayne Miers a couple of years ago he mentioned that he had carried the mail in a horse and buggy. "The roads were so bad you couldn't get through with a car except if it had been dry weather or the ground was frozen. I hired horses from Leon Clemons who had a livery stable where the Star Barn is now."

The dates are important in researching a building like the Star Barn but, to me, it is much more interesting to listen to the memories of those who were a part of it in some way. The following includes some of a conversation that William and Clara Parker and I had one day in August. My many questions are not included.

William Parker: "The Star Barn originally was a livery stable. My father and I went to Versailles one summer, he felt sorry for our old horse, so he went down there and rented a horse and buggy, drove to Versailles and back the same day.

"The livery stable was called the Star Barn even then. Charles Young is, I think, the one who made a sale barn out of it. Joseph Strasburger was one of the early owners. You could rent horses, buggies and carriages at the barn."

Flora Parker: "My family lived down near the Sandcreek Baptist Church and we used to drive into town and put our horse and buggy in the Star Barn. So it was also a sort of Parking Garage. We'd put feed in the back of the buggy so they could feed it, then we'd get on the streetcar and go to St. Paul to visit my grandmother. Then we'd come back on the streetcar, walk from the station on E. Main St., down to the livery stable, get the horse and buggy and drive home."

William Parker: "You could take anything to the Star Barn you wanted to - furniture or anything - and they'd sell it for you on commission."

Clara Parker: "They also took in crates of ducks, chickens, geese and the like."

William Parker: "We hauled manure out of there, hundreds of loads, for several years to use on the farm. This helped the farmers and the Star Barn at the same time."



William Parker: "I remember some of the people who worked there. Perry Swegman worked there and everybody liked him. He was a fine man. Dale Moore, Ted McGuire, I.B. "Red" McGuire, Fred Ernest, Jim Flemming, George Borden, worked there, and George Greer was cashier and clerk for several years. They were all nice men. George worked at the Sale Barn in Rushville for many years too. The Rushville Sale Barn dealt more with horses.

"The workmen had to take care of the animals: clean out the stalls; feed and water them because people would bring them in ahead of time; if they got sick they had to tend to them; and just do whatever was necessary to care for the animals.

"Charlie Young ran that barn for several years. He lived on the Northwest corner of First and Broadway. Bill Critser, owned it at one time too. Bill would go to Kentucky, buy some hogs, and bring them up to the Sale Barn to sell.

"Charlie Garten and his brother Earl were two of the auctioneers. There were several who auctioneered there. It was a big operation for many years."

I hope this will stimulate the memory of others. I also hope that those readers will write them down and send to Van who will include them in a later Bullitin.

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Near Lewes Town, Delaware, June 26, 1826

Mr. Isaac Wilson  
Decatur County  
Indiana

Dear Father and Mother and Kittyan,

I embrace this favorable opportunity of writing to you by Mr. James Conwell; embracing this favorable opportunity of informing you that we are both well at present hoping that these few lines will find you are in good health we are still living near J. Prettyman's in the same house we moved to when we left Georgetown it being the house where James and Tho. Prettyman formerly lived in and we find it to be a grate deal Better Place for our Business than George Town.

You state in your letter that you as well as my Deare Child Kittyan laments and bemoans her self that she never expects to see me again and now as you have moved so much further from me I am afraid it will be the case but if it is our unhappy lot never to meet again in this world I am gratefully in hopes that we shall all meet in a fare Better where there will be Parting no more. I was most gloriously informed my Mr. J. Conwell that my deare Child Kittyan had embraced religion in her youth which is as much joy satisfaction to me (and more so) than if she had of had a fortune fall to her for it is the most valuable fortune that can be enjoyed in this life and in the end eternal life if you do but hold out faithful to the end.



Now to return Deare Kittyan be careful of yourself and keep no disrespectable company for people are thought of by every body according to the company they keep and deare father and mother you know more than she dos Please to direct and take care of her and the Lord will Reward you for it. She comparatively speaking is now just got in the Road through life that you have Part through, therefore you are able to protect and direct her in everything. Deare Kitty give yourself entirely to the Lord if He takes care of you it will be well done. Deare Father and Mother and Kittyan, I was yesterday informed by Mr. Conwell that you have left Kentucky and have got near Brother Robert for I have a confidence in him and in his children that they never will let you want for anything in this world for from undoubted information the Lord has blest him so much with this worlds goods that he can do it if necessary without injouring himself.

Deare father and mother and daughter, don't think as you have stated that we have fergot you for you are often contemplated on in my mind and if it is not my hapy lot to see you no more in this world I feel a hope of meeting you all in a fare better whare parting will be no more.

So I remain your affectionate daughter until death.

Samuel Jepson

Maggaret Jepson

MB I wish to be remembered to Brother Robert and his wife and children and all other enquiring friends, Please to tell James if he will come in I will go home with him. I wish him to come to this Place to see us before he gets married for we have a Plenty of Pretty girls that would look very well in your dark woods we have all Rote in a grate hurry and it is not very correct but you must take the will for the Deed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Note: The original handwritten letter is in the possession of Mrs. Betty Power Deacon, given to her by a distant Power cousin. It was found in a trunk belonging to his mother. I have transcribed a copy of the letter, sent to me from Betty Deacon.

My great-great-great grandparents are Isaac and Anna Wilson. They and their son Robert and wife Nancy Scott Wilson and Kittyann left Delaware for Kentucky (Fayette Co.) and then moved to Indiana. Robert Wilson was a farmer and fence-viewer and bought land in 1821 in Fugit Twp. in Decatur County. He helped lay out Clinton Twp. in 1829.

Robert's son James, mentioned in this letter, was born in Delaware in 1803 and married 29th of June 1826 to Matilda Young ( girl from Rush Co.) Kittyann married 14th of September 1826 to Darius Power in Decatur County. He was born in Harrison Co. KY. Kittyann was born in Delaware in 1808.

Samuel Jepson was a hatter by trade and was born in Maine 1785. Margaret, (Robert's sister) was born in Delaware 1792. They were listed in the 1850 Census in Lewestown, DE. In 1860 they were listed in Millsborough, DE, the same county (Sussex Co.) They were 75 and 68 years.

James Conwell founded the town of Laurel, IN. after his home in DE.

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#### THE HORACE HORSE THIEF DETECTIVE ASSOCIATION

The National Horse Thief Detective Association was started in 1860 for the purpose of apprehending horsethieves and all other felons against the state that their members might occure. In the early 1920's Indiana had over 16,000 members. In 1924 Decatur County had nine companies and 475 members.

I have the minutes of the meetings of the Decatur County Horse Thief Detective Union starting in January 13, 1922 that met at the Court House in Greensburg two or three times a year. The first President was Frank Eubank, Secretary Earl Robbins and Sheriff Otis Maddox as Captain.

Section 4494 of the Burns Indiana Statutes states that with the consent of the Board of Commissioners of the County they designated any or all the members of the association Constables. The Constables have the power to pursue and arrest horse thieves and other criminals that disobey the laws of Indiana, and to follow and pursue the criminals through any part of the state and in the absence of a warrant have the power to arrest and hold in custody without a warrant for anytime as to be necessary to procure a warrant.

In the journal of the State Association in 1923 the statistical report was given as two horses and 60 autos recovered and 734 thieves captured and convicted the past year. Also the same year the resolution committee recommended that the punishment of all bank robbers shall be the death penalty.

The first minutes of the Horace Horse Thief Detective Association that I have was January 23 with 33 members present at the Horace one room brick School House, with Charles Sasser, President; Glen Evans, Secretary and Bert Lundy as Captain.

Some of the thefts the detectives had to work on the first year was a rug stolen from the Liberty Baptist Church, two horse bridles and lines from Earl Robbins, a 12 guage shot gun from Frank Myers, 50 frying chickens from Ernest McGee, a Model A Ford touring car, one dog, several hogs, gasoline and oil.

Several nights we would stand guard at a members chicken house, corn crib or machine shed. I remember one time we were stationed in back of a corn crib and after midnight here came a man with a sack in his hand. Either a dog barking or he sensed something was wrong he turned around and started back the lane.

We hurried him along by my Captain unloading his revolver and I my double barrel shot gun in his direction. I have often wondered what would happen if he would come on and got his corn. About this same time a neighbors boy was shot and killed south of Milroy stealing gasoline.

In the early 1920's and 1930's a member could make arrests and had the power that the sheriff had but in 1936 the Supreme Court ruled that this was unconstitutional and took all the power away from the association. I feel we filled a vital and necessary part of history to help keep law and order.

At this time the police and sheriff departments had better equipment, better trained personel, better communications and more man power.

We still had our meetings once a month with the sheriff attending and we supported him all we could. Around holloween time we would patrol the roads going by each members place to make sure everything was secure. The Horace Association disbanded in 1959 the last one in the state and I was the last President. The Trustee sold the building and contents and the building was soon full of hay and grain.

I still have many records, the gavel, the ballot box with black and white balls, some badges and a lot of memories. Gone is the secret password that could only be said in a whisper, the secret handshake, the secret detective investigation, the new member initiation, the once a year oyster soup supper for our families and the close fellowship with each other and made our community a better and safer place to live.

Submitted by: John E. Parker

////////////////////////////////////

#### MEMBERSHIPS and MEMORIALS

Historical Society of Decatur County, Inc.  
P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN. 47240

Yearly Membership \$5.00 Payable by January 1st.

Life Membership \$100.00

☒ Renewal ☐ New ☐ Gift ☐ Life

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

IF GIFTS: From \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

#### MEMORIALS

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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/THE BULLETIN/

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

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207 Spring St., Catskill, NY 12414

SOCIETY'S THANKS goes to Lois  
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Garden she has established, and  
cared for in the backyard of the  
Museum.

Also, thanks to the Garden Club  
for the flowers they have cul-  
tivated about the Museum.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Paul Walston  
Doris Wilson McCave, Wilmington, DE.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Charles A. Hessler, Indianapolis,

MEMORIAL

Given by Christina Flint Small  
in memory of her cousin,  
Dorothea Miller.

////////////////////////////////////

CURE FOR HYDROPHOBIA

As the season for the prevalence  
of this terrible disease is  
arriving, we shall do the public  
an essential service by pro-  
mulgating a knowledge of the  
following cure, which we have  
received from an attentive friend,  
on whose work implicit reliance  
may be placed: "Friend McMakin:  
I send you the following receipt,  
which is said to be an infallible  
remedy to cure the bite of a mad  
dog: One gill of grated alecam-  
pane boiled in one pont of new  
milk, until it is reduced to a  
half pint. Dose, three table-  
spoonsful two hours before break-  
fast three mornings in secession,  
and then miss three mornings,  
until it has been taken nine  
mornings. This remedy is well  
known and used in the neighborhood  
of Nicetown, and there are many  
persons living there who have been  
cured by this simple means.

# # # # # # # #

Submitted by: PAT SMITH

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William Parker: "The Star Barn originally was a livery stable. My father and I went to Versailles one summer, he felt sorry for our old horse, so he went down there and rented a horse and buggy, drove to Versailles and back the same day.

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\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

Near Lewes Town, Delaware, June 26, 1826

Mr. Isaac Wilson  
Decatur County  
Indiana

Dear Father and Mother and Kittyan,

I embrace this favorable opportunity of writing to you by Mr. James Conwell; embracing this favorable opportunity of informing you that we are both well at present hoping that these few lines will find you are in good health we are still living near J. Prettyman's in the same house we moved to when we left Georgetown it being the house where James and Tho. Prettyman formerly lived in and we find it to be a grate deal Better Place for our Business than George Town.

You state in your letter that you as well as my Deare Child Kittyan laments and bemoans her self that she never expects to see me again and now as you have moved so much further from me I am afraid it will be the case but if it is our unhappy lot never to meet again in this world I am gratefully in hopes that we shall all meet in a fare Better where there will be Parting no more. I was most gloriously informed my Mr. J. Conwell that my deare Child Kittyan had embraced religion in her youth which is as much joy satisfaction to me (and more so) than if she had of had a fortune fall to her for it is the most valuable fortune that can be enjoyed in this life and in the end eternal life if you do but hold out faithful to the end.



Now to return Deare Kittyan be careful of yourself and keep no disrespectable company for people are thought of by every body according to the company they keep and deare father and mother you know more than she dos Please to direct and take care of her and the Lord will Reward you for it. She comparatively speaking is now just got in the Road through life that you have Part through, therefore you are able to protect and direct her in everything. Deare Kitty give yourself entirely to the Lord if He takes care of you it will be well done. Deare Father and Mother and Kittyan, I was yesterday informed by Mr. Conwell that you have left Kentucky and have got near Brother Robert for I have a confidence in him and in his children that they never will let you want for anything in this world for from undoubted information the Lord has blest him so much with this worlds goods that he can do it if necessary without injuring himself.

Deare father and mother and daughter, don't think as you have stated that we have fergot you for you are often contemplated on in my mind and if it is not my hapy lot to see you no more in this world I feel a hope of meeting you all in a fare better whare parting will be no more.

So I remain your affectionate daughter until death.

Samuel Jepson

Maggaret Jepson

MB I wish to be remembered to Brother Robert and his wife and children and all other enquiring friends, Please to tell James if he will come in I will go home with him. I wish him to come to this Place to see us before he gets married for we have a Plenty of Pretty girls that would look very well in your dark woods we have all Rote in a grate hurry and it is not very correct but you must take the will for the Deed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Note: The original handwritten letter is in the possession of Mrs. Betty Power Deacon, given to her by a distant Power cousin. It was found in a trunk belonging to his mother. I have transcribed a copy of the letter, sent to me from Betty Deacon.

My great-great-great grandparents are Isaac and Anna Wilson. They and their son Robert and wife Nancy Scott Wilson and Kittyann left Delaware for Kentucky (Fayette Co.) and then moved to Indiana. Robert Wilson was a farmer and fence-viewer and bought land in 1821 in Fugit Twp. in Decatur County. He helped lay out Clinton Twp. in 1829.

Robert's son James, mentioned in this letter, was born in Delaware in 1803 and married 29th of June 1826 to Matilda Young ( girl from Rush Co.) Kittyann married 14th of September 1826 to Darius Power in Decatur County. He was born in Harrison Co. KY. Kittyann was born in Delaware in 1808.

Samuel Jepson was a hatter by trade and was born in Maine 1785. Margaret, (Robert's sister) was born in Delaware 1792. They were listed in the 1850 Census in Lewestown, DE. In 1860 they were listed in Millsborough, DE, the same county (Sussex Co.) They were 75 and 68 years.

James Conwell founded the town of Laurel, IN. after his home in DE.

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#### THE HORACE HORSE THIEF DETECTIVE ASSOCIATION

The National Horse Thief Detective Association was started in 1860 for the purpose of apprehending horsethieves and all other felons against the state that their members might occure. In the early 1920's Indiana had over 16,000 members. In 1924 Decatur County had nine companies and 475 members.

I have the minutes of the meetings of the Decatur County Horse Thief Detective Union starting in January 13, 1922 that met at the Court House in Greensburg two or three times a year. The first President was Frank Eubank, Secretary Earl Robbins and Sheriff Otis Maddox as Captain.

Section 4494 of the Burns Indiana Statutes states that with the consent of the Board of Commissioners of the County they designated any or all the members of the association Constables. The Constables have the power to pursue and arrest horse thieves and other criminals that disobey the laws of Indiana, and to follow and pursue the criminals through any part of the state and in the absence of a warrant have the power to arrest and hold in custody without a warrant for anytime as to be necessary to procure a warrant.

In the journal of the State Association in 1923 the statistical report was given as two horses and 60 autos recovered and 734 thieves captured and convicted the past year. Also the same year the resolution committee recommended that the punishment of all bank robbers shall be the death penalty.

The first minutes of the Horace Horse Thief Detective Association that I have was January 23 with 33 members present at the Horace one room brick School House, with Charles Sasser, President; Glen Evans, Secretary and Bert Lundy as Captain.

Some of the thefts the detectives had to work on the first year was a rug stolen from the Liberty Baptist Church, two horse bridles and lines from Earl Robbins, a 12 guage shot gun from Frank Myers, 50 frying chickens from Ernest McGee, a Model A Ford touring car, one dog, several hogs, gasoline and oil.

Several nights we would stand guard at a members chicken house, corn crib or machine shed. I remember one time we were stationed in back of a corn crib and after midnight here came a man with a sack in his hand. Either a dog barking or he sensed something was wrong he turned around and started back the lane.

We hurried him along by my Captain unloading his revolver and I my double barrel shot gun in his direction. I have often wondered what would happen if he would come on and got his corn. About this same time a neighbors boy was shot and killed south of Milroy stealing gasoline.

In the early 1920's and 1930's a member could make arrests and had the power that the sheriff had but in 1936 the Supreme Court ruled that this was unconstitutional and took all the power away from the association. I feel we filled a vital and necessary part of history to help keep law and order.

At this time the police and sheriff departments had better equipment, better trained personel, better communications and more man power.

We still had our meetings once a month with the sheriff attending and we supported him all we could. Around holloween time we would patrol the roads going by each members place to make sure everything was secure. The Horace Association disbanded in 1959 the last one in the state and I was the last President. The Trustee sold the building and contents and the building was soon full of hay and grain.

I still have many records, the gavel, the ballot box with black and white balls, some badges and a lot of memories. Gone is the secret password that could only be said in a whisper, the secret handshake, the secret detective investigation, the new member initiation, the once a year oyster soup supper for our families and the close fellowship with each other and made our community a better and safer place to live.

Submitted by: John E. Parker

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#### MEMBERSHIPS and MEMORIALS

Historical Society of Decatur County, Inc.  
P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN. 47240

Yearly Membership \$5.00  
Life Membership \$100.00

Payable by January 1st.

☒ Renewal ☐ New

☐ Gift ☐ Life

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

IF GIFTS: From \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

#### MEMORIALS

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

President.....William H. Hunter  
N. Stewart St, Grbg.  
Ph: 663-5479  
1st. V. Pres.....Readawn Metz  
2nd. V. Pres.....John A. Westhafer  
Rec. Sec.....Juanita Beall  
Cor. Sec.....Peg Miller  
Treas.....Maurice Keith

DIRECTORS

Diana Swegman  
James H. Biddle  
Patricia Smith  
Robert Conwell  
Allan Beall  
Diana Springmier

EDITOR OF BULLETIN

Van P. Batterton  
525 N. Broadway St.  
Greensburg, IN. 47240

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
DECATUR COUNTY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 163  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA 47240

MUSEUM TRUSTEES

Jackie Mendenhall  
Earl Vanderbur  
Allan Beall  
Marjorie Hunter  
John Oliger  
Morgan Miers

MUSEUM CURATOR

Jackie Mendenhall  
663-8277

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Lee Lauderdale  
663-2769

SOCIETY'S AGENT

William H. Robbins

COUNTY HISTORIAN

Dale Myers  
663-4370

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/THE BULLETIN/

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 6 , No. 123

Greensburg, Indiana

November 1990

OCCASION: Fall Meeting of the  
Decatur County Historical Society.

PLACE: Greensburg Presbyterian  
Church, South entrance.

DATE: November 11, 1990  
2:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: Will be announced by  
radio & Newspaper.

Summer Meeting was held in the  
Presbyterian Church, August 5th  
with quite a few of the faithful  
in attendance. Jackie Mendenhall  
was in charge of the program  
which consisted of video inter-  
views with some of the old timers  
about the great depression of the  
thirties. Quite interesting, the  
film is at the local library, if  
anyone would like to see it.  
August 15th Morgan Miers conducted  
a tour to the State Fair, espec-  
ially to see the Farm Museum of  
Purdue. Several members took part  
in this adventure.

Genealogical Quieries

I would welcome correspondence re-  
garding my WILSON family. I do  
not know when or where Issac &  
Anna WILSON died. Robert, b. 1778,  
died 1833. Nancy m. 1843 John  
Miller who died 1848. Nancy died  
1883 at the age of 97, but where  
remains a mystery. (Doris Wilson  
McCave, 2013 Kynwyd Rd. Wilmington,  
De. 19810.

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In the journal of the State Association in 1923 the statistical report was given as two horses and 60 autos recovered and 734 thieves captured and convicted the past year. Also the same year the resolution committee recommended that the punishment of all bank robbers shall be the death penalty.

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Some of the thefts the detectives had to work on the first year was a rug stolen from the Liberty Baptist Church, two horse bridles and lines from Earl Robbins, a 12 guage shot gun from Frank Myers, 50 frying chickens from Ernest McGee, a Model A Ford touring car, one dog, several hogs, gasoline and oil.

Several nights we would stand guard at a members chicken house, corn crib or machine shed. I remember one time we were stationed in back of a corn crib and after midnight here came a man with a sack in his hand. Either a dog barking or he sensed something was wrong he turned around and started back the lane.

We hurried him along by my Captain unloading his revolver and I my double barrel shot gun in his direction. I have often wondered what would happen if he would come on and got his corn. About this same time a neighbors boy was shot and killed south of Milroy stealing gasoline.

In the early 1920's and 1930's a member could make arrests and had the power that the sheriff had but in 1936 the Supreme Court ruled that this was unconstitutional and took all the power away from the association. I feel we filled a vital and necessary part of history to help keep law and order.

At this time the police and sheriff departments had better equipment, better trained personel, better communications and more man power.

We still had our meetings once a month with the sheriff attending and we supported him all we could. Around halloween time we would patrol the roads going by each members place to make sure everything was secure. The Horace Association disbanded in 1959 the last one in the state and I was the last President. The Trustee sold the building and contents and the building was soon full of hay and grain.

I still have many records, the gavel, the ballot box with black and white balls, some badges and a lot of memories. Gone is the secret password that could only be said in a whisper, the secret handshake, the secret detective investigation, the new member initiation, the once a year oyster soup supper for our families and the close fellowship with each other and made our community a better and safer place to live.

Submitted by: John E. Parker

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#### MEMBERSHIPS and MEMORIALS

Historical Society of Decatur County, Inc.  
P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN. 47240

Yearly Membership \$5.00  
Life Membership \$100.00

Payable by January 1st.

☒ Renewal      ☐ New      ☐ Gift      ☐ Life

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

IF GIFTS: From \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

President.....William H. Hunter  
N. Stewart St, Grbg.  
Ph: 663-5479  
1st. V. Pres.....Readawn Metz  
2nd. V. Pres.....John A. Westhafer  
Rec. Sec.....Juanita Beall  
Cor. Sec.....Peg Miller  
Treas.....Maurice Keith

DIRECTORS

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James H. Biddle  
Patricia Smith  
Robert Conwell  
Allan Beall  
Diana Springmier

EDITOR OF BULLETIN

Van P. Batterton  
525 N. Broadway St.  
Greensburg, IN. 47240

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DECATUR COUNTY, INC.  
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GREENSBURG, INDIANA 47240

MUSEUM TRUSTEES

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Earl Vanderbur  
Allan Beall  
Marjorie Hunter  
John Oliger  
Morgan Miers

MUSEUM CURATOR

Jackie Mendenhall  
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MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Lee Lauderdale  
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SOCIETY'S AGENT

William H. Robbins

COUNTY HISTORIAN

Dale Myers  
663-4370

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/THE BULLETIN/

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 6 , No. 123                      Greensburg, Indiana                      November 1990

OCCASION:    Fall Meeting of the  
                 Decatur County Histor-  
                 ical Society.

PLACE:        Greensburg Presbyterian  
                 Church, South entrance.

DATE:         November 11, 1990  
                 2:00 P.M.

PROGRAM:     Will be announced by  
                 radio & Newspaper.

SOCIETY'S THANKS goes to Lois  
Laskowski for the excellent Herb  
Garden she has established, and  
cared for in the backyard of the  
Museum.  
Also, thanks to the Garden Club  
for the flowers they have cul-  
tivated about the Museum.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Paul Walston  
Doris Wilson McCave, Wilmington, DE.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Charles A. Hessler, Indianapolis,

MEMORIAL

Given by Christina Flint Small  
in memory of her cousin,  
Dorothea Miller.

////////////////////////////////////

CURE FOR HYDROPHOBIA

As the season for the prevalence  
of this terrible disease is  
arriving, we shall do the public  
an essential service by pro-  
mulgating a knowledge of the  
following cure, which we have  
received from an attentive friend,  
on whose work implicit reliance  
may be placed: "Friend McMakin:  
I send you the following receipt,  
which is said to be an infallible  
remedy to cure the bite of a mad  
dog: One gill of grated alecam-  
pane boiled in one port of new  
milk, until it is reduced to a  
half pint. Dose, three table-  
spoonsful two hours before break-  
fast three mornings in secession,  
and then miss three mornings,  
until it has been taken nine  
mornings. This remedy is well  
known and used in the neighborhood  
of Nicetown, and there are many  
persons living there who have been  
cured by this simple means.

#   #   #   #   #   #   #   #

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Presbyterian Church, August 5th  
with quite a few of the faithful  
in attendance. Jackie Mendenhall  
was in charge of the program  
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a tour to the State Fair, espec-  
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207 Spring St., Catskill, NY 12414

Submitted by: PAT SMITH

Months ago Van asked me to write something for this publication and suggested that the Star Barn might be a subject to pursue. The Star Barn is one of those buildings that many of us, those who have never had any dealings with it, drive past and seldom really see. The first thing I did, therefore, was to go take a look at the building.

First of all, it's large, and second, it's old. Large speaks for itself, you can get an idea of how large it is by just sticking your head inside the door. You can get an idea of its age when you see the huge planks that make the floor - likewise, the framing timbers that were used when such wood was plentiful.

of course, it's the history of the business that's been conducted in the barn that's of interest but that was difficult to come by. What follows is the little I was able to find plus the memories of some who remember the earlier days of the Star Barn. Not a lot of documented information was found but it is my hope that those readers who have memories of the Star Barn will write them down and send them to Van. It would be of interest to many and would be a way of preserving what information is available.

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The history of the barn as a sale barn began in January, 1920 but, as Wm. Parker states later, it's history goes back many years before that.

At one time the lunch counter was a gathering place for local residents and visitors. Bob Shaw told me, "My! The groceries that went through that lunch room! It was so crowded that most of the time it was impossible to find a place to park."

At one time, in the late 1960's, there was a veterinarian located in the building. Dr. Joseph W. Green moved his practice to the barn from Danville. He had studied at Texas A & M Univ., graduating in 1943, and later got his masters, in re-production and nutrition, from Purdue Univ. He was a former head of the State Veterinary Board. I give that background to help those who aren't familiar with the barn, an idea of how big an operation the barn has been in the past.

Bob Shaw said, "When we were kids Burl Broadus and I used to drive the pigs and cattle. Our job was to keep them off people's yards. Sometimes there would be a renegade and there would be a little excitement. They'd give us a dime for doing that." It's hard for us to imagine today that hogs and cattle were driven up or down Michigan Ave. or McKee street.

John Oligier has other memories of the barn. "My cousins, the Oligiers, lived nearby and we kids would go over to the barn and try talking them into letting us ride the horses."

Gerald Strasburger, who owns the cleaning plant just south of the barn, remembers when it was a busy place. His dad, Joseph, owned it at one time. Other owners have included (but not limited to) Will Critser, Don Peters, Farrell Winkler, Kelly Smith, Charles Barns (The first owners to operate it only as a sale barn,) Robert and Wm. Hatton, Mr. & Mrs. Robert (Lefty) Phelps, Rucker, Nelson, Carrol and Sterling Triimble. Leon Clemons owned the building in December 1919 when it was sold to Smith and Barns. The present owner is Bob Cross from Sunman.

When I interviewed L. Wayne Miers a couple of years ago he mentioned that he had carried the mail in a horse and buggy. "The roads were so bad you couldn't get through with a car except if it had been dry weather or the ground was frozen. I hired horses from Leon Clemons who had a livery stable where the Star Barn is now."

The dates are important in researching a building like the Star Barn but, to me, it is much more interesting to listen to the memories of those who were a part of it in some way. The following includes some of a conversation that William and Clara Parker and I had one day in August. My many questions are not included.

William Parker: "The Star Barn originally was a livery stable. My father and I went to Versailles one summer, he felt sorry for our old horse, so he went down there and rented a horse and buggy, drove to Versailles and back the same day.

"The livery stable was called the Star Barn even then. Charles Young is, I think, the one who made a sale barn out of it. Joseph Strasburger was one of the early owners. You could rent horses, buggies and carriages at the barn."

Flora Parker: "My family lived down near the Sandcreek Baptist Church and we used to drive into town and put our horse and buggy in the Star Barn. So it was also a sort of Parking Garage. We'd put feed in the back of the buggy so they could feed it, then we'd get on the streetcar and go to St. Paul to visit my grandmother. Then we'd come back on the streetcar, walk from the station on E. Main St., down to the livery stable, get the horse and buggy and drive home."

William Parker: "You could take anything to the Star Barn you wanted to - furniture or anything - and they'd sell it for you on commission."

Clara Parker: "They also took in crates of ducks, chickens, geese and the like."

William Parker: "We hauled manure out of there, hundreds of loads, for several years to use on the farm. This helped the farmers and the Star Barn at the same time."

William Parker: "I remember some of the people who worked there. Perry Swegman worked there and everybody liked him. He was a fine man. Dale Moore, Ted McGuire, I.B. "Red" McGuire, Fred Ernest, Jim Flemming, George Borden, worked there, and George Greer was cashier and clerk for several years. They were all nice men. George worked at the Sale Barn in Rushville for many years too. The Rushville Sale Barn dealt more with horses.

"The workmen had to take care of the animals: clean out the stalls; feed and water them because people would bring them in ahead of time; if they got sick they had to tend to them; and just do whatever was necessary to care for the animals.

"Charlie Young ran that barn for several years. He lived on the Northwest corner of First and Broadway. Bill Critser, owned it at one time too. Bill would go to Kentucky, buy some hogs, and bring them up to the Sale Barn to sell.

"Charlie Garten and his brother Earl were two of the auctioneers. There were several who auctioneered there. It was a big operation for many years."

I hope this will stimulate the memory of others. I also hope that those readers will write them down and send to Van who will include them in a later Bullitin.

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Near Lewes Town, Delaware, June 26, 1826

Mr. Isaac Wilson  
Decatur County  
Indiana

Dear Father and Mother and Kittyan,

I embrace this favorable opportunity of writing to you by Mr. James Conwell; embracing this favorable opportunity of informing you that we are both well at present hoping that these few lines will find you are in good health we are still living near J. Prettyman's in the same house we moved to when we left Georgetown it being the house where James and Tho. Prettyman formerly lived in and we find it to be a grate deal Better Place for our Business than George Town.

You state in your letter that you as well as my Deare Child Kittyan laments and bemoans her self that she never expects to see me again and now as you have moved so much further from me I am afraid it will be the case but if it is our unhappy lot never to meet again in this world I am grately in hopes that we shall all meet in a fare Better where there will be Parting no more. I was most gloriously informed my Mr. J. Conwell that my deare Child Kittyan had embraced religion in her youth which is as much joy satisfaction to me (and more so) than if she had of had a fortune fall to her for it is the most valuable fortune that can be enjoyed in this life and in the end eternal life if you do but hold out faithful to the end.



Now to return Deare Kittyan be careful of yourself and keep no disrespectable company for people are thought of by every body according to the company they keep and deare father and mother you know more than she dos Please to direct and take care of her and the Lord will Reward you for it. She comparatively speaking is now just got in the Road through life that you have Part through, therefore you are able to protect and direct her in everything. Deare Kitty give yourself entirely to the Lord if He takes care of you it will be well done. Deare Father and Mother and Kittyan, I was yesterday informed by Mr. Conwell that you have left Kentucky and have got near Brother Robert for I have a confidence in him and in his children that they never will let you want for anything in this world for from undoubted information the Lord has blest him so much with this worlds goods that he can do it if necessary without injuring himself.

Deare father and mother and daughter, don't think as you have stated that we have fergot you for you are often contemplated on in my mind and if it is not my hapy lot to see you no more in this world I feel a hope of meeting you all in a fare better whare parting will be no more.

So I remain your affectionate daughter until death.

Samuel Jepson

Maggaret Jepson

MB I wish to be remembered to Brother Robert and his wife and children and all other enquiring friends, Please to tell James if he will come in I will go home with him. I wish him to come to this Place to see us before he gets married for we have a Plenty of Pretty girls that would look very well in your dark woods we have all Rote in a grate hurry and it is not very correct but you must take the will for the Deed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Note: The original handwritten letter is in the possession of Mrs. Betty Power Deacon, given to her by a distant Power cousin. It was found in a trunk belonging to his mother. I have transcribed a copy of the letter, sent to me from Betty Deacon.

My great-great-great grandparents are Isaac and Anna Wilson. They and their son Robert and wife Nancy Scott Wilson and Kittyann left Delaware for Kentucky (Fayette Co.) and then moved to Indiana. Robert Wilson was a farmer and fence-viewer and bought land in 1821 in Fugit Twp. in Decatur County. He helped lay out Clinton Twp. in 1829.

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Vol. 6 , No. 123

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Gerald Strasburger, who owns the cleaning plant just south of the barn, remembers when it was a busy place. His dad, Joseph, owned it at one time. Other owners have included (but not limited to) Will Critser, Don Peters, Farrell Winkler, Kelly Smith, Charles Barns (The first owners to operate it only as a sale barn,) Robert and Wm. Hatton, Mr. & Mrs. Robert (Lefty) Phelps, Rucker, Nelson, Carrol and Sterling Triimble. Leon Clemons owned the building in December 1919 when it was sold to Smith and Barns. The present owner is Bob Cross from Sunman.

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William Parker: "The Star Barn originally was a livery stable. My father and I went to Versailles one summer, he felt sorry for our old horse, so he went down there and rented a horse and buggy, drove to Versailles and back the same day.

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Near Lewes Town, Delaware, June 26, 1826

Mr. Isaac Wilson  
Decatur County  
Indiana

Dear Father and Mother and Kittyan,

I embrace this favorable opportunity of writing to you by Mr. James Conwell; embracing this favorable opportunity of informing you that we are both well at present hoping that these few lines will find you are in good health we are still living near J. Prettyman's in the same house we moved to when we left Georgetown it being the house where James and Tho. Prettyman formerly lived in and we find it to be a grate deal Better Place for our Business than George Town.

You state in your letter that you as well as my Deare Child Kittyan laments and bemoans her self that she never expects to see me again and now as you have moved so much further from me I am afraid it will be the case but if it is our unhappy lot never to meet again in this world I am grately in hopes that we shall all meet in a fare Better where there will be Parting no more. I was most gloriously informed my Mr. J. Conwell that my deare Child Kittyan had embraced religion in her youth which is as much joy satisfaction to me (and more so) than if she had of had a fortune fall to her for it is the most valuable fortune that can be enjoyed in this life and in the end eternal life if you do but hold out faithful to the end.



Now to return Deare Kittyan be careful of yourself and keep no disrespectable company for people are thought of by every body according to the company they keep and deare father and mother you know more than she dos Please to direct and take care of her and the Lord will Reward you for it. She comparatively speaking is now just got in the Road through life that you have Part through, therefore you are able to protect and direct her in everything. Deare Kitty give yourself entirely to the Lord if He takes care of you it will be well done. Deare Father and Mother and Kittyan, I was yesterday informed by Mr. Conwell that you have left Kentucky and have got near Brother Robert for I have a confidence in him and in his children that they never will let you want for anything in this world for from undoubted information the Lord has blest him so much with this worlds goods that he can do it if necessary without injuring himself.

Deare father and mother and daughter, don't think as you have stated that we have fergot you for you are often contemplated on in my mind and if it is not my hapy lot to see you no more in this world I feel a hope of meeting you all in a fare better whare parting will be no more.

So I remain your affectionate daughter until death.

Samuel Jepson

Maggaret Jepson

MB I wish to be remembered to Brother Robert and his wife and children and all other enquiring friends, Please to tell James if he will come in I will go home with him. I wish him to come to this Place to see us before he gets married for we have a Plenty of Pretty girls that would look very well in your dark woods we have all Rote in a grate hurry and it is not very correct but you must take the will for the Deed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Note: The original handwritten letter is in the possession of Mrs. Betty Power Deacon, given to her by a distant Power cousin. It was found in a trunk belonging to his mother. I have transcribed a copy of the letter, sent to me from Betty Deacon.

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Robert's son James, mentioned in this letter, was born in Delaware in 1803 and married 29th of June 1826 to Matilda Young ( girl from Rush Co.) Kittyann married 14th of September 1826 to Darius Power in Decatur County. He was born in Harrison Co. KY. Kittyann was born in Delaware in 1808.

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Section 4494 of the Burns Indiana Statutes states that with the consent of the Board of Commissioners of the County they designated any or all the members of the association Constables. The Constables have the power to pursue and arrest horse thieves and other criminals that disobey the laws of Indiana, and to follow and pursue the criminals through any part of the state and in the absence of a warrant have the power to arrest and hold in custody without a warrant for anytime as to be necessary to procure a warrant.

In the journal of the State Association in 1923 the statistical report was given as two horses and 60 autos recovered and 734 thieves captured and convicted the past year. Also the same year the resolution committee recommended that the punishment of all bank robbers shall be the death penalty.

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Some of the thefts the detectives had to work on the first year was a rug stolen from the Liberty Baptist Church, two horse bridles and lines from Earl Robbins, a 12 guage shot gun from Frank Myers, 50 frying chickens from Ernest McGee, a Model A Ford touring car, one dog, several hogs, gasoline and oil.

Several nights we would stand guard at a members chicken house, corn crib or machine shed. I remember one time we were stationed in back of a corn crib and after midnight here came a man with a sack in his hand. Either a dog barking or he sensed something was wrong he turned around and started back the lane.

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In the early 1920's and 1930's a member could make arrests and had the power that the sheriff had but in 1936 the Supreme Court ruled that this was unconstitutional and took all the power away from the association. I feel we filled a vital and necessary part of history to help keep law and order.

At this time the police and sheriff departments had better equipment, better trained personel, better communications and more man power.

We still had our meetings once a month with the sheriff attending and we supported him all we could. Around holloween time we would patrol the roads going by each members place to make sure everything was secure. The Horace Association disbanded in 1959 the last one in the state and I was the last President. The Trustee sold the building and contents and the building was soon full of hay and grain.

I still have many records, the gavel, the ballot box with black and white balls, some badges and a lot of memories. Gone is the secret password that could only be said in a whisper, the secret handshake, the secret detective investigation, the new member initiation, the once a year oyster soup supper for our families and the close fellowship with each other and made our community a better and safer place to live.

Submitted by: John E. Parker

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#### MEMBERSHIPS and MEMORIALS

Historical Society of Decatur County, Inc.  
P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN. 47240

Yearly Membership \$5.00  
Life Membership \$100.00

Payable by January 1st.

☒ Renewal      ☐ New      ☐ Gift      ☐ Life

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

IF GIFTS: From \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

#### MEMORIALS

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

President.....William H. Hunter  
N. Stewart St, Grbg.  
Ph: 663-5479  
1st. V. Pres.....Readawn Metz  
2nd. V. Pres.....John A. Westhafer  
Rec. Sec.....Juanita Beall  
Cor. Sec.....Peg Miller  
Treas.....Maurice Keith

DIRECTORS

Diana Swegman  
James H. Biddle  
Patricia Smith  
Robert Conwell  
Allan Beall  
Diana Springmier

EDITOR OF BULLETIN

Van P. Batterton  
525 N. Broadway St.  
Greensburg, IN. 47240

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
DECATUR COUNTY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 163  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA 47240

MUSEUM TRUSTEES

Jackie Mendenhall  
Earl Vanderbur  
Allan Beall  
Marjorie Hunter  
John Oliger  
Morgan Miers

MUSEUM CURATOR

Jackie Mendenhall  
663-8277

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Lee Lauderdale  
663-2769

SOCIETY'S AGENT

William H. Robbins

COUNTY HISTORIAN

Dale Myers  
663-4370

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/THE BULLETIN/

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 6 , No. 123

Greensburg, Indiana

November 1990

OCCASION: Fall Meeting of the  
Decatur County Historical Society.

PLACE: Greensburg Presbyterian  
Church, South entrance.

DATE: November 11, 1990  
2:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: Will be announced by  
radio & Newspaper.

Summer Meeting was held in the  
Presbyterian Church, August 5th  
with quite a few of the faithful  
in attendance. Jackie Mendenhall  
was in charge of the program  
which consisted of video inter-  
views with some of the old timers  
about the great depression of the  
thirties. Quite interesting, the  
film is at the local library, if  
anyone would like to see it.  
August 15th Morgan Miers conducted  
a tour to the State Fair, espec-  
ially to see the Farm Museum of  
Purdue. Several members took part  
in this adventure.

Genealogical Quieries

I would welcome correspondence re-  
garding my WILSON family. I do  
not know when or where Issac &  
Anna WILSON died. Robert, b. 1778,  
died 1833. Nancy m. 1843 John  
Miller who died 1848. Nancy died  
1883 at the age of 97, but where  
remains a mystery. (Doris Wilson  
McCave, 2013 Kynwyd Rd. Wilmington,  
De. 19810.

Wish to contact descendants  
of JOHN F. STEVENS, be. 2 April  
1814, Jeff. City, IN. and MARTHA  
GROVER whom he married in Greens-  
burg 15 Oct. 1844. John murdered  
10 June 1863 while acting as  
Draft Commissioner. Had 3 sons,  
3 dau. Am interested in John &  
Martha's ancestry. (Helen McCord  
207 Spring St., Catskill, NY 12414

SOCIETY'S THANKS goes to Lois  
Laskowski for the excellent Herb  
Garden she has established, and  
cared for in the backyard of the  
Museum.  
Also, thanks to the Garden Club  
for the flowers they have cul-  
tivated about the Museum.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Paul Walston  
Doris Wilson McCave, Wilmington, DE.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Charles A. Hessler, Indianapolis,

MEMORIAL

Given by Christina Flint Small  
in memory of her cousin,  
Dorothea Miller.

////////////////////////////////////

CURE FOR HYDROPHOBIA

As the season for the prevalence  
of this terrible disease is  
arriving, we shall do the public  
an essential service by pro-  
mulgating a knowledge of the  
following cure, which we have  
received from an attentive friend,  
on whose work implicit releance  
may be placed: "Friend McMakin:  
I send you the following receipt,  
which is said to be an infallible  
remedy to cure the bite of a mad  
dog: One gill of grated alecam-  
pane boiled in one pont of new  
milk, until it is reduced to a  
half pint. Dose, three table-  
spoonsful two hours before break-  
fast three mornings in seccession,  
and then miss three mornings,  
until it has been taken nine  
mornings. This remedy is well  
known and used in the neighborhood  
of Nicetown, and there are many  
persons living there who have been  
cured by this simple means.

# # # # # # # #

Submitted by: PAT SMITH

Months ago Van asked me to write something for this publication and suggested that the Star Barn might be a subject to pursue. The Star Barn is one of those buildings that many of us, those who have never had any dealings with it, drive past and seldom really see. The first thing I did, therefore, was to go take a look at the building.

First of all, it's large, and second, it's old. Large speaks for itself, you can get an idea of how large it is by just sticking your head inside the door. You can get an idea of its age when you see the huge planks that make the floor - likewise, the framing timbers that were used when such wood was plentiful.

of course, it's the history of the business that's been conducted in the barn that's of interest but that was difficult to come by. What follows is the little I was able to find plus the memories of some who remember the earlier days of the Star Barn. Not a lot of documented information was found but it is my hope that those readers who have memories of the Star Barn will write them down and send them to Van. It would be of interest to many and would be a way of preserving what information is available.

The Star Barn is located on the corner of S. Michigan Ave. and McKee Street. At one time the horse sales, held in the barn each week, attracted buyers from many states. The sales were held once a week until the start of World War II. During the War the sales were halted but were started again when the War ended. Any kind of animal could be purchased at the barn including cattle, goats, sheep, hogs, horses, ponies, and mules.

The history of the barn as a sale barn began in January, 1920 but, as Wm. Parker states later, it's history goes back many years before that.

At one time the lunch counter was a gathering place for local residents and visitors. Bob Shaw told me, "My! The groceries that went through that lunch room! It was so crowded that most of the time it was impossible to find a place to park."

At one time, in the late 1960's, there was a veterinarian located in the building. Dr. Joseph W. Green moved his practice to the barn from Danville. He had studied at Texas A & M Univ., graduating in 1943, and later got his masters, in re-production and nutrition, from Purdue Univ. He was a former head of the State Veterinary Board. I give that background to help those who aren't familiar with the barn, an idea of how big an operation the barn has been in the past.

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IF GIFTS: From \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

#### MEMORIALS

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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N. Stewart St, Grbg.  
Ph: 663-5479  
1st. V. Pres.....Readawn Metz  
2nd. V. Pres.....John A. Westhafer  
Rec. Sec.....Juanita Beall  
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Robert Conwell  
Allan Beall  
Diana Springmier

EDITOR OF BULLETIN

Van P. Batterton  
525 N. Broadway St.  
Greensburg, IN. 47240

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
DECATUR COUNTY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 163  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA 47240

MUSEUM TRUSTEES

Jackie Mendenhall  
Earl Vanderbur  
Allan Beall  
Marjorie Hunter  
John Oliger  
Morgan Miers

MUSEUM CURATOR

Jackie Mendenhall  
663-8277

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Lee Lauderdale  
663-2769

SOCIETY'S AGENT

William H. Robbins

COUNTY HISTORIAN

Dale Myers  
663-4370

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/THE BULLETIN/

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 6 , No. 123

Greensburg, Indiana

November 1990

OCCASION: Fall Meeting of the  
Decatur County Historical Society.

PLACE: Greensburg Presbyterian  
Church, South entrance.

DATE: November 11, 1990  
2:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: Will be announced by  
radio & Newspaper.

SOCIETY'S THANKS goes to Lois  
Laskowski for the excellent Herb  
Garden she has established, and  
cared for in the backyard of the  
Museum.  
Also, thanks to the Garden Club  
for the flowers they have cul-  
tivated about the Museum.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Paul Walston  
Doris Wilson McCave, Wilmington, DE.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Charles A. Hessler, Indianapolis,

MEMORIAL

Given by Christina Flint Small  
in memory of her cousin,  
Dorothea Miller.

////////////////////////////////////

CURE FOR HYDROPHOBIA

As the season for the prevalence  
of this terrible disease is  
arriving, we shall do the public  
an essential service by pro-  
mulgating a knowledge of the  
following cure, which we have  
received from an attentive friend,  
on whose work implicit reliance  
may be placed: "Friend McMakin:  
I send you the following receipt,  
which is said to be an infallible  
remedy to cure the bite of a mad  
dog: One gill of grated alecam-  
pane boiled in one pont of new  
milk, until it is reduced to a  
half pint. Dose, three table-  
spoonsful two hours before break-  
fast three mornings in secession,  
and then miss three mornings,  
until it has been taken nine  
mornings. This remedy is well  
known and used in the neighborhood  
of Nicetown, and there are many  
persons living there who have been  
cured by this simple means.

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207 Spring St., Catskill, NY 12414

Submitted by: PAT SMITH

Months ago Van asked me to write something for this publication and suggested that the Star Barn might be a subject to pursue. The Star Barn is one of those buildings that many of us, those who have never had any dealings with it, drive past and seldom really see. The first thing I did, therefore, was to go take a look at the building.

First of all, it's large, and second, it's old. Large speaks for itself, you can get an idea of how large it is by just sticking your head inside the door. You can get an idea of its age when you see the huge planks that make the floor - likewise, the framing timbers that were used when such wood was plentiful.

of course, it's the history of the business that's been conducted in the barn that's of interest but that was difficult to come by. What follows is the little I was able to find plus the memories of some who remember the earlier days of the Star Barn. Not a lot of documented information was found but it is my hope that those readers who have memories of the Star Barn will write them down and send them to Van. It would be of interest to many and would be a way of preserving what information is available.

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The history of the barn as a sale barn began in January, 1920 but, as Wm. Parker states later, it's history goes back many years before that.

At one time the lunch counter was a gathering place for local residents and visitors. Bob Shaw told me, "My! The groceries that went through that lunch room! It was so crowded that most of the time it was impossible to find a place to park."

At one time, in the late 1960's, there was a veterinarian located in the building. Dr. Joseph W. Green moved his practice to the barn from Danville. He had studied at Texas A & M Univ., graduating in 1943, and later got his masters, in re-production and nutrition, from Purdue Univ. He was a former head of the State Veterinary Board. I give that background to help those who aren't familiar with the barn, an idea of how big an operation the barn has been in the past.

Bob Shaw said, "When we were kids Burl Broadus and I used to drive the pigs and cattle. Our job was to keep them off people's yards. Sometimes there would be a renegade and there would be a little excitement. They'd give us a dime for doing that." It's hard for us to imagine today that hogs and cattle were driven up or down Michigan Ave. or McKee street.

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Gerald Strasburger, who owns the cleaning plant just south of the barn, remembers when it was a busy place. His dad, Joseph, owned it at one time. Other owners have included (but not limited to) Will Critser, Don Peters, Farrell Winkler, Kelly Smith, Charles Barns (The first owners to operate it only as a sale barn,) Robert and Wm. Hatton, Mr. & Mrs. Robert (Lefty) Phelps, Rucker, Nelson, Carrol and Sterling Triimble. Leon Clemons owned the building in December 1919 when it was sold to Smith and Barns. The present owner is Bob Cross from Sunman.

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William Parker: "The Star Barn originally was a livery stable. My father and I went to Versailles one summer, he felt sorry for our old horse, so he went down there and rented a horse and buggy, drove to Versailles and back the same day.

"The livery stable was called the Star Barn even then. Charles Young is, I think, the one who made a sale barn out of it. Joseph Strasburger was one of the early owners. You could rent horses, buggies and carriages at the barn."

Flora Parker: "My family lived down near the Sandcreek Baptist Church and we used to drive into town and put our horse and buggy in the Star Barn. So it was also a sort of Parking Garage. We'd put feed in the back of the buggy so they could feed it, then we'd get on the streetcar and go to St. Paul to visit my grandmother. Then we'd come back on the streetcar, walk from the station on E. Main St., down to the livery stable, get the horse and buggy and drive home."

William Parker: "You could take anything to the Star Barn you wanted to - furniture or anything - and they'd sell it for you on commission."

Clara Parker: "They also took in crates of ducks, chickens, geese and the like."

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William Parker: "I remember some of the people who worked there. Perry Swegman worked there and everybody liked him. He was a fine man. Dale Moore, Ted McGuire, I.B. "Red" McGuire, Fred Ernest, Jim Flemming, George Borden, worked there, and George Greer was cashier and clerk for several years. They were all nice men. George worked at the Sale Barn in Rushville for many years too. The Rushville Sale Barn dealt more with horses.

"The workmen had to take care of the animals: clean out the stalls; feed and water them because people would bring them in ahead of time; if they got sick they had to tend to them; and just do whatever was necessary to care for the animals.

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"Charlie Garten and his brother Earl were two of the auctioneers. There were several who auctioneered there. It was a big operation for many years."

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\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

Near Lewes Town, Delaware, June 26, 1826

Mr. Isaac Wilson  
Decatur County  
Indiana

Dear Father and Mother and Kittyan,

I embrace this favorable opportunity of writing to you by Mr. James Conwell; embracing this favorable opportunity of informing you that we are both well at present hoping that these few lines will find you are in good health we are still living near J. Prettyman's in the same house we moved to when we left Georgetown it being the house where James and Tho. Prettyman formerly lived in and we find it to be a grate deal Better Place for our Business than George Town.

You state in your letter that you as well as my Deare Child Kittyan laments and bemoans her self that she never expects to see me again and now as you have moved so much further from me I am afraid it will be the case but if it is our unhappy lot never to meet again in this world I am gratefully in hopes that we shall all meet in a fare Better where there will be Parting no more. I was most gloriously informed my Mr. J. Conwell that my deare Child Kittyan had embraced religion in her youth which is as much joy satisfaction to me (and more so) than if she had of had a fortune fall to her for it is the most valuable fortune that can be enjoyed in this life and in the end eternal life if you do but hold out faithful to the end.



Now to return Deare Kittyan be careful of yourself and keep no disrespectable company for people are thought of by every body according to the company they keep and deare father and mother you know more than she dos Please to direct and take care of her and the Lord will Reward you for it. She comparatively speaking is now just got in the Road through life that you have Part through, therefore you are able to protect and direct her in everything. Deare Kitty give yourself entirely to the Lord if He takes care of you it will be well done. Deare Father and Mother and Kittyan, I was yesterday informed by Mr. Conwell that you have left Kentucky and have got near Brother Robert for I have a confidence in him and in his children that they never will let you want for anything in this world for from undoubted information the Lord has blest him so much with this worlds goods that he can do it if necessary without injuring himself.

Deare father and mother and daughter, don't think as you have stated that we have fergot you for you are often contemplated on in my mind and if it is not my hapy lot to see you no more in this world I feel a hope of meeting you all in a fare better whare parting will be no more.

So I remain your affectionate daughter until death.

Samuel Jepson

Maggaret Jepson

MB I wish to be remembered to Brother Robert and his wife and children and all other enquiring friends, Please to tell James if he will come in I will go home with him. I wish him to come to this Place to see us before he gets married for we have a Plenty of Pretty girls that would look very well in your dark woods we have all Rote in a grate hurry and it is not very correct but you must take the will for the Deed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Note: The original handwritten letter is in the possession of Mrs. Betty Power Deacon, given to her by a distant Power cousin. It was found in a trunk belonging to his mother. I have transcribed a copy of the letter, sent to me from Betty Deacon.

My great-great-great grandparents are Isaac and Anna Wilson. They and their son Robert and wife Nancy Scott Wilson and Kittyann left Delaware for Kentucky (Fayette Co.) and then moved to Indiana. Robert Wilson was a farmer and fence-viewer and bought land in 1821 in Fugit Twp. in Decatur County. He helped lay out Clinton Twp. in 1829.

Robert's son James, mentioned in this letter, was born in Delaware in 1803 and married 29th of June 1826 to Matilda Young ( girl from Rush Co.) Kittyann married 14th of September 1826 to Darius Power in Decatur County. He was born in Harrison Co. KY. Kittyann was born in Delaware in 1808.

Samuel Jepson was a hatter by trade and was born in Maine 1785. Margaret, (Robert's sister) was born in Delaware 1792. They were listed in the 1850 Census in Lewestown, DE. In 1860 they were listed in Millsborough, DE, the same county (Sussex Co.) They were 75 and 68 years.

James Conwell founded the town of Laurel, IN. after his home in DE.

////////////////////////////////////

#### THE HORACE HORSE THIEF DETECTIVE ASSOCIATION

The National Horse Thief Detective Association was started in 1860 for the purpose of apprehending horsethieves and all other felons against the state that their members might occure. In the early 1920's Indiana had over 16,000 members. In 1924 Decatur County had nine companies and 475 members.

I have the minutes of the meetings of the Decatur County Horse Thief Detective Union starting in January 13, 1922 that met at the Court House in Greensburg two or three times a year. The first President was Frank Eubank, Secretary Earl Robbins and Sheriff Otis Maddox as Captain.

Section 4494 of the Burns Indiana Statutes states that with the consent of the Board of Commissioners of the County they designated any or all the members of the association Constables. The Constables have the power to pursue and arrest horse thieves and other criminals that disobey the laws of Indiana, and to follow and pursue the criminals through any part of the state and in the absence of a warrant have the power to arrest and hold in custody without a warrant for anytime as to be necessary to procure a warrant.

In the journal of the State Association in 1923 the statistical report was given as two horses and 60 autos recovered and 734 thieves captured and convicted the past year. Also the same year the resolution committee recommended that the punishment of all bank robbers shall be the death penalty.

The first minutes of the Horace Horse Thief Detective Association that I have was January 23 with 33 members present at the Horace one room brick School House, with Charles Sasser, President; Glen Evans, Secretary and Bert Lundy as Captain.

Some of the thefts the detectives had to work on the first year was a rug stolen from the Liberty Baptist Church, two horse bridles and lines from Earl Robbins, a 12 guage shot gun from Frank Myers, 50 frying chickens from Ernest McGee, a Model A Ford touring car, one dog, several hogs, gasoline and oil.

Several nights we would stand guard at a members chicken house, corn crib or machine shed. I remember one time we were stationed in back of a corn crib and after midnight here came a man with a sack in his hand. Either a dog barking or he sensed something was wrong he turned around and started back the lane.

We hurried him along by my Captain unloading his revolver and I my double barrel shot gun in his direction. I have often wondered what would happen if he would come on and got his corn. About this same time a neighbors boy was shot and killed south of Milroy stealing gasoline.

In the early 1920's and 1930's a member could make arrests and had the power that the sheriff had but in 1936 the Supreme Court ruled that this was unconstitutional and took all the power away from the association. I feel we filled a vital and necessary part of history to help keep law and order.

At this time the police and sheriff departments had better equipment, better trained personel, better communications and more man power.

We still had our meetings once a month with the sheriff attending and we supported him all we could. Around holloween time we would patrol the roads going by each members place to make sure everything was secure. The Horace Association disbanded in 1959 the last one in the state and I was the last President. The Trustee sold the building and contents and the building was soon full of hay and grain.

I still have many records, the gavel, the ballot box with black and white balls, some badges and a lot of memories. Gone is the secret password that could only be said in a whisper, the secret handshake, the secret detective investigation, the new member initiation, the once a year oyster soup supper for our families and the close fellowship with each other and made our community a better and safer place to live.

Submitted by: John E. Parker

////////////////////////////////////

#### MEMBERSHIPS and MEMORIALS

Historical Society of Decatur County, Inc.

P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN. 47240

Yearly Membership \$5.00

Payable by January 1st.

Life Membership \$100.00

☒ Renewal ☐ New

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Indiana

Dear Father and Mother and Kittyan,

I embrace this favorable opportunity of writing to you by Mr. James Conwell; embracing this favorable opportunity of informing you that we are both well at present hoping that these few lines will find you are in good health we are still living near J. Prettyman's in the same house we moved to when we left Georgetown it being the house where James and Tho. Prettyman formerly lived in and we find it to be a grate deal Better Place for our Business than George Town.

You state in your letter that you as well as my Deare Child Kittyan laments and bemoans her self that she never expects to see me again and now as you have moved so much further from me I am afraid it will be the case but if it is our unhappy lot never to meet again in this world I am grately in hopes that we shall all meet in a fare Better where there will be Parting no more. I was most gloriously informed my Mr. J. Conwell that my deare Child Kittyan had embraced religion in her youth which is as much joy satisfaction to me (and more so) than if she had of had a fortune fall to her for it is the most valuable fortune that can be enjoyed in this life and in the end eternal life if you do but hold out faithful to the end.



Now to return Deare Kittyan be careful of yourself and keep no disrespectable company for people are thought of by every body according to the company they keep and deare father and mother you know more than she dos Please to direct and take care of her and the Lord will Reward you for it. She comparatively speaking is now just got in the Road through life that you have Part through, therefore you are able to protect and direct her in everything. Deare Kitty give yourself entirely to the Lord if He takes care of you it will be well done. Deare Father and Mother and Kittyan, I was yesterday informed by Mr. Conwell that you have left Kentucky and have got near Brother Robert for I have a confidence in him and in his children that they never will let you want for anything in this world for from undoubted information the Lord has blest him so much with this worlds goods that he can do it if necessary without injuring himself.

Deare father and mother and daughter, don't think as you have stated that we have fergot you for you are often contemplated on in my mind and if it is not my hapy lot to see you no more in this world I feel a hope of meeting you all in a fare better whare parting will be no more.

So I remain your affectionate daughter until death.

Samuel Jepson

Maggaret Jepson

MB I wish to be remembered to Brother Robert and his wife and children and all other enquiring friends, Please to tell James if he will come in I will go home with him. I wish him to come to this place to see us before he gets married for we have a Plenty of Pretty girls that would look very well in your dark woods we have all Rote in a grate hurry and it is not very correct but you must take the will for the Deed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Note: The original handwritten letter is in the possession of Mrs. Betty Power Deacon, given to her by a distant Power cousin. It was found in a trunk belonging to his mother. I have transcribed a copy of the letter, sent to me from Betty Deacon.

My great-great-great grandparents are Isaac and Anna Wilson. They and their son Robert and wife Nancy Scott Wilson and Kittyann left Delaware for Kentucky (Fayette Co.) and then moved to Indiana. Robert Wilson was a farmer and fence-viewer and bought land in 1821 in Fugit Twp. in Decatur County. He helped lay out Clinton Twp. in 1829.

Robert's son James, mentioned in this letter, was born in Delaware in 1803 and married 29th of June 1826 to Matilda Young ( girl from Rush Co.) Kittyann married 14th of September 1826 to Darius Power in Decatur County. He was born in Harrison Co. KY. Kittyann was born in Delaware in 1808.

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#### THE HORACE HORSE THIEF DETECTIVE ASSOCIATION

The National Horse Thief Detective Association was started in 1860 for the purpose of apprehending horsethieves and all other felons against the state that their members might occure. In the early 1920's Indiana had over 16,000 members. In 1924 Decatur County had nine companies and 475 members.

I have the minutes of the meetings of the Decatur County Horse Thief Detective Union starting in January 13, 1922 that met at the Court House in Greensburg two or three times a year. The first President was Frank Eubank, Secretary Earl Robbins and Sheriff Otis Maddox as Captain.

Section 4494 of the Burns Indiana Statutes states that with the consent of the Board of Commissioners of the County they designated any or all the members of the association Constables. The Constables have the power to pursue and arrest horse thieves and other criminals that disobey the laws of Indiana, and to follow and pursue the criminals through any part of the state and in the absence of a warrant have the power to arrest and hold in custody without a warrant for anytime as to be necessary to procure a warrant.

In the journal of the State Association in 1923 the statistical report was given as two horses and 60 autos recovered and 734 thieves captured and convicted the past year. Also the same year the resolution committee recommended that the punishment of all bank robbers shall be the death penalty.

The first minutes of the Horace Horse Thief Detective Association that I have was January 23 with 33 members present at the Horace one room brick School House, with Charles Sasser, President; Glen Evans, Secretary and Bert Lundy as Captain.

Some of the thefts the detectives had to work on the first year was a rug stolen from the Liberty Baptist Church, two horse bridles and lines from Earl Robbins, a 12 guage shot gun from Frank Myers, 50 frying chickens from Ernest McGee, a Model A Ford touring car, one dog, several hogs, gasoline and oil.

Several nights we would stand guard at a members chicken house, corn crib or machine shed. I remember one time we were stationed in back of a corn crib and after midnight here came a man with a sack in his hand. Either a dog barking or he sensed something was wrong he turned around and started back the lane.

We hurried him along by my Captain unloading his revolver and I my double barrel shot gun in his direction. I have often wondered what would happen if he would come on and got his corn. About this same time a neighbors boy was shot and killed south of Milroy stealing gasoline.

In the early 1920's and 1930's a member could make arrests and had the power that the sheriff had but in 1936 the Supreme Court ruled that this was unconstitutional and took all the power away from the association. I feel we filled a vital and necessary part of history to help keep law and order.

At this time the police and sheriff departments had better equipment, better trained personel, better communications and more man power.

We still had our meetings once a month with the sheriff attending and we supported him all we could. Around holloween time we would patrol the roads going by each members place to make sure everything was secure. The Horace Association disbanded in 1959 the last one in the state and I was the last President. The Trustee sold the building and contents and the building was soon full of hay and grain.

I still have many records, the gavel, the ballot box with black and white balls, some badges and a lot of memories. Gone is the secret password that could only be said in a whisper, the secret handshake, the secret detective investigation, the new member initiation, the once a year oyster soup supper for our families and the close fellowship with each other and made our community a better and safer place to live.

Submitted by: John E. Parker

////////////////////////////////////

#### MEMBERSHIPS and MEMORIALS

Historical Society of Decatur County, Inc.  
P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN. 47240

Yearly Membership \$5.00 Payable by January 1st.

Life Membership \$100.00

☐ Renewal ☐ New ☐ Gift ☐ Life

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

IF GIFTS: From \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

#### MEMORIALS

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

President.....William H. Hunter  
N. Stewart St, Grbg.  
Ph: 663-5479  
1st. V. Pres.....Readawn Metz  
2nd. V. Pres.....John A. Westhafer  
Rec. Sec.....Juanita Beall  
Cor. Sec.....Peg Miller  
Treas.....Maurice Keith

DIRECTORS

Diana Swegman  
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Patricia Smith  
Robert Conwell  
Allan Beall  
Diana Springmier

EDITOR OF BULLETIN

Van P. Batterton  
525 N. Broadway St.  
Greensburg, IN. 47240

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
DECATUR COUNTY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 163  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA 47240

MUSEUM TRUSTEES

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Earl Vanderbur  
Allan Beall  
Marjorie Hunter  
John Oliger  
Morgan Miers

MUSEUM CURATOR

Jackie Mendenhall  
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William H. Robbins

COUNTY HISTORIAN

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/THE BULLETIN/

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 6 , No. 123

Greensburg, Indiana

November 1990

OCCASION: Fall Meeting of the  
Decatur County Historical Society.

PLACE: Greensburg Presbyterian  
Church, South entrance.

DATE: November 11, 1990  
2:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: Will be announced by  
radio & Newspaper.

Summer Meeting was held in the  
Presbyterian Church, August 5th  
with quite a few of the faithful  
in attendance. Jackie Mendenhall  
was in charge of the program  
which consisted of video inter-  
views with some of the old timers  
about the great depression of the  
thirties. Quite interesting, the  
film is at the local library, if  
anyone would like to see it.  
August 15th Morgan Miers conducted  
a tour to the State Fair, espec-  
ially to see the Farm Museum of  
Purdue. Several members took part  
in this adventure.

Genealogical Quieries

I would welcome correspondence re-  
garding my WILSON family. I do  
not know when or where Issac &  
Anna WILSON died. Robert, b. 1778,  
died 1833. Nancy m. 1843 John  
Miller who died 1848. Nancy died  
1883 at the age of 97, but where  
remains a mystery. (Doris Wilson  
McCave, 2013 Kynwyd Rd. Wilmington,  
De. 19810.

Wish to contact descendants  
of JOHN F. STEVENS, be. 2 April  
1814, Jeff. City, IN. and MARTHA  
GROVER whom he married in Greens-  
burg 15 Oct. 1844. John murdered  
10 June 1863 while acting as  
Draft Commissioner. Had 3 sons,  
3 dau. Am interested in John &  
Martha's ancestry. (Helen McCord  
207 Spring St., Catskill, NY 12414

SOCIETY'S THANKS goes to Lois  
Laskowski for the excellent Herb  
Garden she has established, and  
cared for in the backyard of the  
Museum.  
Also, thanks to the Garden Club  
for the flowers they have cul-  
tivated about the Museum.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Paul Walston  
Doris Wilson McCave, Wilmington, DE.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Charles A. Hessler, Indianapolis,

MEMORIAL

Given by Christina Flint Small  
in memory of her cousin,  
Dorothea Miller.

////////////////////////////////////

CURE FOR HYDROPHOBIA

As the season for the prevalence  
of this terrible disease is  
arriving, we shall do the public  
an essential service by pro-  
mulgating a knowledge of the  
following cure, which we have  
received from an attentive friend,  
on whose work implicit reliance  
may be placed: "Friend McMakin:  
I send you the following receipt,  
which is said to be an infallible  
remedy to cure the bite of a mad  
dog: One gill of grated alecam-  
pane boiled in one pont of new  
milk, until it is reduced to a  
half pint. Dose, three table-  
spoonsful two hours before break-  
fast three mornings in seccession,  
and then miss three mornings,  
until it has been taken nine  
mornings. This remedy is well  
known and used in the neighborhood  
of Nicetown, and there are many  
persons living there who have been  
cured by this simple means.

# # # # #

Submitted by: PAT SMITH

Months ago Van asked me to write something for this publication and suggested that the Star Barn might be a subject to pursue. The Star Barn is one of those buildings that many of us, those who have never had any dealings with it, drive past and seldom really see. The first thing I did, therefore, was to go take a look at the building.

First of all, it's large, and second, it's old. Large speaks for itself, you can get an idea of how large it is by just sticking your head inside the door. You can get an idea of its age when you see the huge planks that make the floor - likewise, the framing timbers that were used when such wood was plentiful.

of course, it's the history of the business that's been conducted in the barn that's of interest but that was difficult to come by. What follows is the little I was able to find plus the memories of some who remember the earlier days of the Star Barn. Not a lot of documented information was found but it is my hope that those readers who have memories of the Star Barn will write them down and send them to Van. It would be of interest to many and would be a way of preserving what information is available.

The Star Barn is located on the corner of S. Michigan Ave. and McKee Street. At one time the horse sales, held in the barn each week, attracted buyers from many states. The sales were held once a week until the start of World War II. During the War the sales were halted but were started again when the War ended. Any kind of animal could be purchased at the barn including cattle, goats, sheep, hogs, horses, ponies, and mules.

The history of the barn as a sale barn began in January, 1920 but, as Wm. Parker states later, it's history goes back many years before that.

At one time the lunch counter was a gathering place for local residents and visitors. Bob Shaw told me, "My! The groceries that went through that lunch room! It was so crowded that most of the time it was impossible to find a place to park."

At one time, in the late 1960's, there was a veterinarian located in the building. Dr. Joseph W. Green moved his practice to the barn from Danville. He had studied at Texas A & M Univ., graduating in 1943, and later got his masters, in re-production and nutrition, from Purdue Univ. He was a former head of the State Veterinary Board. I give that background to help those who aren't familiar with the barn, an idea of how big an operation the barn has been in the past.

Bob Shaw said, "When we were kids Burl Broadus and I used to drive the pigs and cattle. Our job was to keep them off people's yards. Sometimes there would be a renegade and there would be a little excitement. They'd give us a dime for doing that." It's hard for us to imagine today that hogs and cattle were driven up or down Michigan Ave. or McKee street.

John Oliger has other memories of the barn. "My cousins, the Oligers, lived nearby and we kids would go over to the barn and try talking them into letting us ride the horses."

Gerald Strasburger, who owns the cleaning plant just south of the barn, remembers when it was a busy place. His dad, Joseph, owned it at one time. Other owners have included (but not limited to) Will Critser, Don Peters, Farrell Winkler, Kelly Smith, Charles Barns (The first owners to operate it only as a sale barn,) Robert and Wm. Hatton, Mr. & Mrs. Robert (Lefty) Phelps, Rucker, Nelson, Carrol and Sterling Triimble. Leon Clemons owned the building in December 1919 when it was sold to Smith and Barns. The present owner is Bob Cross from Sunman.

When I interviewed L. Wayne Miers a couple of years ago he mentioned that he had carried the mail in a horse and buggy. "The roads were so bad you couldn't get through with a car except if it had been dry weather or the ground was frozen. I hired horses from Leon Clemons who had a livery stable where the Star Barn is now."

The dates are important in researching a building like the Star Barn but, to me, it is much more interesting to listen to the memories of those who were a part of it in some way. The following includes some of a conversation that William and Clara Parker and I had one day in August. My many questions are not included.

William Parker: "The Star Barn originally was a livery stable. My father and I went to Versailles one summer, he felt sorry for our old horse, so he went down there and rented a horse and buggy, drove to Versailles and back the same day.

"The livery stable was called the Star Barn even then. Charles Young is, I think, the one who made a sale barn out of it. Joseph Strasburger was one of the early owners. You could rent horses, buggies and carriages at the barn."

Flora Parker: "My family lived down near the Sandcreek Baptist Church and we used to drive into town and put our horse and buggy in the Star Barn. So it was also a sort of Parking Garage. We'd put feed in the back of the buggy so they could feed it, then we'd get on the streetcar and go to St. Paul to visit my grandmother. Then we'd come back on the streetcar, walk from the station on E. Main St., down to the livery stable, get the horse and buggy and drive home."

William Parker: "You could take anything to the Star Barn you wanted to - furniture or anything - and they'd sell it for you on commission."

Clara Parker: "They also took in crates of ducks, chickens, geese and the like."

William Parker: "We hauled manure out of there, hundreds of loads, for several years to use on the farm. This helped the farmers and the Star Barn at the same time."

William Parker: "I remember some of the people who worked there. Perry Swegman worked there and everybody liked him. He was a fine man. Dale Moore, Ted McGuire, I.B. "Red" McGuire, Fred Ernest, Jim Flemming, George Borden, worked there, and George Greer was cashier and clerk for several years. They were all nice men. George worked at the Sale Barn in Rushville for many years too. The Rushville Sale Barn dealt more with horses.

"The workmen had to take care of the animals: clean out the stalls; feed and water them because people would bring them in ahead of time; if they got sick they had to tend to them; and just do whatever was necessary to care for the animals.

"Charlie Young ran that barn for several years. He lived on the Northwest corner of First and Broadway. Bill Critser, owned it at one time too. Bill would go to Kentucky, buy some hogs, and bring them up to the Sale Barn to sell.

"Charlie Garten and his brother Earl were two of the auctioneers. There were several who auctioneered there. It was a big operation for many years."

I hope this will stimulate the memory of others. I also hope that those readers will write them down and send to Van who will include them in a later Bullitin.

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

Near Lewes Town, Delaware, June 26, 1826

Mr. Isaac Wilson  
Decatur County  
Indiana

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In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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Greensburg, Indiana

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Genealogical Quieries

I would welcome correspondence regarding my WILSON family. I do not know when or where Issac & Anna WILSON died. Robert, b. 1778, died 1833. Nancy m. 1843 John Miller who died 1848. Nancy died 1883 at the age of 97, but where remains a mystery. (Doris Wilson McCave, 2013 Kynwyd Rd. Wilmington, De. 19810.

Wish to contact descendants of JOHN F. STEVENS, be. 2 April 1814, Jeff. City, IN. and MARTHA GROVER whom he married in Greensburg 15 Oct. 1844. John murdered 10 June 1863 while acting as Draft Commissioner. Had 3 sons, 3 dau. Am interested in John & Martha's ancestry. (Helen McCord 207 Spring St., Catskill, NY 12414

SOCIETY'S THANKS goes to Lois Laskowski for the excellent Herb Garden she has established, and cared for in the backyard of the Museum.

Also, thanks to the Garden Club for the flowers they have cultivated about the Museum.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Paul Walston

Doris Wilson McCave, Wilmington, DE.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Charles A. Hessler, Indianapolis,

MEMORIAL

Given by Christina Flint Small in memory of her cousin, Dorothea Miller.

////////////////////////////////////

CURE FOR HYDROPHOBIA

As the season for the prevalence of this terrible disease is arriving, we shall do the public an essential service by promulgating a knowledge of the following cure, which we have received from an attentive friend, on whose work implicit reliance may be placed: "Friend McMakin: I send you the following receipt, which is said to be an infallible remedy to cure the bite of a mad dog: One gill of grated alecampane boiled in one pont of new milk, until it is reduced to a half pint. Dose, three table-spoonsful two hours before breakfast three mornings in secession, and then miss three mornings, until it has been taken nine mornings. This remedy is well known and used in the neighborhood of Nicetown, and there are many persons living there who have been cured by this simple means.

# # # # #

Submitted by: PAT SMITH

Months ago Van asked me to write something for this publication and suggested that the Star Barn might be a subject to pursue. The Star Barn is one of those buildings that many of us, those who have never had any dealings with it, drive past and seldom really see. The first thing I did, therefore, was to go take a look at the building.

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\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

Near Lewes Town, Delaware, June 26, 1826

Mr. Isaac Wilson  
Decatur County  
Indiana

Dear Father and Mother and Kittyan,

I embrace this favorable opportunity of writing to you by Mr. James Conwell; embracing this favorable opportunity of informing you that we are both well at present hoping that these few lines will find you are in good health we are still living near J. Prettyman's in the same house we moved to when we left Georgetown it being the house where James and Tho. Prettyman formerly lived in and we find it to be a grate deal Better Place for our Business than George Town.

You state in your letter that you as well as my Deare Child Kittyan laments and bemoans her self that she never expects to see me again and now as you have moved so much further from me I am afraid it will be the case but if it is our unhappy lot never to meet again in this world I am grately in hopes that we shall all meet in a fare Better where there will be Parting no more. I was most gloriously informed my Mr. J. Conwell that my deare Child Kittyan had embraced religion in her youth which is as much joy satisfaction to me (and more so) than if she had of had a fortune fall to her for it is the most valuable fortune that can be enjoyed in this life and in the end eternal life if you do but hold out faithful to the end.



Now to return Deare Kittyan be careful of yourself and keep no disrespectable company for people are thought of by every body according to the company they keep and deare father and mother you know more than she dos Please to direct and take care of her and the Lord will Reward you for it. She comparatively speaking is now just got in the Road through life that you have Part through, therefore you are able to protect and direct her in everything. Deare Kitty give yourself entirely to the Lord if He takes care of you it will be well done. Deare Father and Mother and Kittyan, I was yesterday informed by Mr. Conwell that you have left Kentucky and have got near Brother Robert for I have a confidence in him and in his children that they never will let you want for anything in this world for from undoubted information the Lord has blest him so much with this worlds goods that he can do it if necessary without injuring himself.

Deare father and mother and daughter, don't think as you have stated that we have fergot you for you are often contemplated on in my mind and if it is not my hapy lot to see you no more in this world I feel a hope of meeting you all in a fare better whare parting will be no more.

So I remain your affectionate daughter until death.

Samuel Jepson

Maggaret Jepson

MB I wish to be remembered to Brother Robert and his wife and children and all other enquiring friends, Please to tell James if he will come in I will go home with him. I wish him to come to this Place to see us before he gets married for we have a Plenty of Pretty girls that would look very well in your dark woods we have all Rote in a grate hurry and it is not very correct but you must take the will for the Deed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Note: The original handwritten letter is in the possession of Mrs. Betty Power Deacon, given to her by a distant Power cousin. It was found in a trunk belonging to his mother. I have transcribed a copy of the letter, sent to me from Betty Deacon.

My great-great-great grandparents are Isaac and Anna Wilson. They and their son Robert and wife Nancy Scott Wilson and Kittyann left Delaware for Kentucky (Fayette Co.) and then moved to Indiana. Robert Wilson was a farmer and fence-viewer and bought land in 1821 in Fugit Twp. in Decatur County. He helped lay out Clinton Twp. in 1829.

Robert's son James, mentioned in this letter, was born in Delaware in 1803 and married 29th of June 1826 to Matilda Young ( girl from Rush Co.) Kittyann married 14th of September 1826 to Darius Power in Decatur County. He was born in Harrison Co. KY. Kittyann was born in Delaware in 1808.

Samuel Jepson was a hatter by trade and was born in Maine 1785. Margaret, (Robert's sister) was born in Delaware 1792. They were listed in the 1850 Census in Lewestown, DE. In 1860 they were listed in Millsborough, DE, the same county (Sussex Co.) They were 75 and 68 years.

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#### THE HORACE HORSE THIEF DETECTIVE ASSOCIATION

The National Horse Thief Detective Association was started in 1860 for the purpose of apprehending horsethieves and all other felons against the state that their members might occure. In the early 1920's Indiana had over 16,000 members. In 1924 Decatur County had nine companies and 475 members.

I have the minutes of the meetings of the Decatur County Horse Thief Detective Union starting in January 13, 1922 that met at the Court House in Greensburg two or three times a year. The first President was Frank Eubank, Secretary Earl Robbins and Sheriff Otis Maddox as Captain.

Section 4494 of the Burns Indiana Statutes states that with the consent of the Board of Commissioners of the County they designated any or all the members of the association Constables. The Constables have the power to pursue and arrest horse thieves and other criminals that disobey the laws of Indiana, and to follow and pursue the criminals through any part of the state and in the absence of a warrant have the power to arrest and hold in custody without a warrant for anytime as to be necessary to procure a warrant.

In the journal of the State Association in 1923 the statistical report was given as two horses and 60 autos recovered and 734 thieves captured and convicted the past year. Also the same year the resolution committee recommended that the punishment of all bank robbers shall be the death penalty.

The first minutes of the Horace Horse Thief Detective Association that I have was January 23 with 33 members present at the Horace one room brick School House, with Charles Sasser, President; Glen Evans, Secretary and Bert Lundy as Captain.

Some of the thefts the detectives had to work on the first year was a rug stolen from the Liberty Baptist Church, two horse bridles and lines from Earl Robbins, a 12 guage shot gun from Frank Myers, 50 frying chickens from Ernest McGee, a Model A Ford touring car, one dog, several hogs, gasoline and oil.

Several nights we would stand guard at a members chicken house, corn crib or machine shed. I remember one time we were stationed in back of a corn crib and after midnight here came a man with a sack in his hand. Either a dog barking or he sensed something was wrong he turned around and started back the lane.

We hurried him along by my Captain unloading his revolver and I my double barrel shot gun in his direction. I have often wondered what would happen if he would come on and got his corn. About this same time a neighbors boy was shot and killed south of Milroy stealing gasoline.

In the early 1920's and 1930's a member could make arrests and had the power that the sheriff had but in 1936 the Supreme Court ruled that this was unconstitutional and took all the power away from the association. I feel we filled a vital and necessary part of history to help keep law and order.

At this time the police and sheriff departments had better equipment, better trained personel, better communications and more man power.

We still had our meetings once a month with the sheriff attending and we supported him all we could. Around holloween time we would patrol the roads going by each members place to make sure everything was secure. The Horace Association disbanded in 1959 the last one in the state and I was the last President. The Trustee sold the building and contents and the building was soon full of hay and grain.

I still have many records, the gavel, the ballot box with black and white balls, some badges and a lot of memories. Gone is the secret password that could only be said in a whisper, the secret handshake, the secret detective investigation, the new member initiation, the once a year oyster soup supper for our families and the close fellowship with each other and made our community a better and safer place to live.

Submitted by: John E. Parker

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### MEMBERSHIPS and MEMORIALS

Historical Society of Decatur County, Inc.  
P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN. 47240

Yearly Membership \$5.00 Payable by January 1st.

Life Membership \$100.00

☒ Renewal ☐ New ☐ Gift ☐ Life

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

IF GIFTS: From \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMORIALS

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

President.....William H. Hunter  
N. Stewart St, Grbg.  
Ph: 663-5479  
1st. V. Pres.....Readawn Metz  
2nd. V. Pres.....John A. Westhafer  
Rec. Sec.....Juanita Beall  
Cor. Sec.....Peg Miller  
Treas.....Maurice Keith

DIRECTORS

Diana Swegman  
James H. Biddle  
Patricia Smith  
Robert Conwell  
Allan Beall  
Diana Springmier

EDITOR OF BULLETIN

Van P. Batterton  
525 N. Broadway St.  
Greensburg, IN. 47240

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
DECATUR COUNTY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 163  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA 47240

MUSEUM TRUSTEES

Jackie Mendenhall  
Earl Vanderbur  
Allan Beall  
Marjorie Hunter  
John Oliger  
Morgan Miers

MUSEUM CURATOR

Jackie Mendenhall  
663-8277

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Lee Lauderdale  
663-2769

SOCIETY'S AGENT

William H. Robbins

COUNTY HISTORIAN

Dale Myers  
663-4370

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/THE BULLETIN/

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 6 , No. 123

Greensburg, Indiana

November 1990

OCCASION: Fall Meeting of the  
Decatur County Historical Society.

PLACE: Greensburg Presbyterian  
Church, South entrance.

DATE: November 11, 1990  
2:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: Will be announced by  
radio & Newspaper.

Summer Meeting was held in the  
Presbyterian Church, August 5th  
with quite a few of the faithful  
in attendance. Jackie Mendenhall  
was in charge of the program  
which consisted of video inter-  
views with some of the old timers  
about the great depression of the  
thirties. Quite interesting, the  
film is at the local library, if  
anyone would like to see it.  
August 15th Morgan Miers conducted  
a tour to the State Fair, espec-  
ially to see the Farm Museum of  
Purdue. Several members took part  
in this adventure.

Genealogical Quieries

I would welcome correspondence re-  
garding my WILSON family. I do  
not know when or where Issac &  
Anna WILSON died. Robert, b. 1778,  
died 1833. Nancy m. 1843 John  
Miller who died 1848. Nancy died  
1883 at the age of 97, but where  
remains a mystery. (Doris Wilson  
McCave, 2013 Kynwyd Rd. Wilmington,  
De. 19810.

Wish to contact descendants  
of JOHN F. STEVENS, be. 2 April  
1814, Jeff. City, IN. and MARTHA  
GROVER whom he married in Greens-  
burg 15 Oct. 1844. John murdered  
10 June 1863 while acting as  
Draft Commissioner. Had 3 sons,  
3 dau. Am interested in John &  
Martha's ancestry. (Helen McCord  
207 Spring St., Catskill, NY 12414

SOCIETY'S THANKS goes to Lois  
Laskowski for the excellent Herb  
Garden she has established, and  
cared for in the backyard of the  
Museum.  
Also, thanks to the Garden Club  
for the flowers they have cul-  
tivated about the Museum.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Paul Walston  
Doris Wilson McCave, Wilmington, DE.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Charles A. Hessler, Indianapolis,

MEMORIAL

Given by Christina Flint Small  
in memory of her cousin,  
Dorothea Miller.

////////////////////////////////////

CURE FOR HYDROPHOBIA

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I still have many records, the gavel, the ballot box with black and white balls, some badges and a lot of memories. Gone is the secret password that could only be said in a whisper, the secret handshake, the secret detective investigation, the new member initiation, the once a year oyster soup supper for our families and the close fellowship with each other and made our community a better and safer place to live.

Submitted by: John E. Parker

////////////////////////////////////

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Historical Society of Decatur County, Inc.  
P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN. 47240

Yearly Membership \$5.00

Payable by January 1st.

Life Membership \$100.00

☒ Renewal ☐ New

☐ Gift ☐ Life

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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Ph: 663-5479  
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Allan Beall  
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EDITOR OF BULLETIN

Van P. Batterton  
525 N. Broadway St.  
Greensburg, IN. 47240

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Earl Vanderbur  
Allan Beall  
Marjorie Hunter  
John Oliger  
Morgan Miers

MUSEUM CURATOR

Jackie Mendenhall  
663-8277

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Lee Lauderdale  
663-2769

SOCIETY'S AGENT

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COUNTY HISTORIAN

Dale Myers  
663-4370

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/THE BULLETIN/

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 6 , No. 123

Greensburg, Indiana

November 1990

OCCASION: Fall Meeting of the  
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PLACE: Greensburg Presbyterian  
Church, South entrance.

DATE: November 11, 1990  
2:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: Will be announced by  
radio & Newspaper.

Summer Meeting was held in the Presbyterian Church, August 5th with quite a few of the faithful in attendance. Jackie Mendenhall was in charge of the program which consisted of video interviews with some of the old timers about the great depression of the thirties. Quite interesting, the film is at the local library, if anyone would like to see it. August 15th Morgan Miers conducted a tour to the State Fair, especially to see the Farm Museum of Purdue. Several members took part in this adventure.

Genealogical Quieries

I would welcome correspondence regarding my WILSON family. I do not know when or where Issac & Anna WILSON died. Robert, b. 1778, died 1833. Nancy m. 1843 John Miller who died 1848. Nancy died 1883 at the age of 97, but where remains a mystery. (Doris Wilson McCave, 2013 Kynwyd Rd. Wilmington, De. 19810.

Wish to contact descendants of JOHN F. STEVENS, be. 2 April 1814, Jeff. City, IN. and MARTHA GROVER whom he married in Greensburg 15 Oct. 1844. John murdered 10 June 1863 while acting as Draft Commissioner. Had 3 sons, 3 dau. Am interested in John & Martha's ancestry. (Helen McCord 207 Spring St., Catskill, NY 12414

SOCIETY'S THANKS goes to Lois Laskowski for the excellent Herb Garden she has established, and cared for in the backyard of the Museum.

Also, thanks to the Garden Club for the flowers they have cultivated about the Museum.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Paul Walston

Doris Wilson McCave, Wilmington, DE.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Charles A. Hessler, Indianapolis,

MEMORIAL

Given by Christina Flint Small in membry of her cousin, Dorothea Miller.

////////////////////////////////////

CURE FOR HYDROPHOBIA

As the season for the prevalence of this terrible disease is arriving, we shall do the public an essential service by promulgating a knowledge of the following cure, which we have received from an attentive friend, on whose work implicit releance may be placed: "Friend McMakin: I send you the following receipt, which is said to be an infallible remedy to cure the bite of a mad dog: One gill of grated alecampane boiled in one pont of new milk, until it is reduced to a half pint. Dose, three table-spoonsful two hours before breakfast three mornings in seccession, and then miss three mornings, until it has been taken nine mornings. This remedy is well known and used in the neighborhood of Nicetown, and there are many persons living there who have been cured by this simple means.

# # # # #

Submitted by: PAT SMITH

Months ago Van asked me to write something for this publication and suggested that the Star Barn might be a subject to pursue. The Star Barn is one of those buildings that many of us, those who have never had any dealings with it, drive past and seldom really see. The first thing I did, therefore, was to go take a look at the building.

First of all, it's large, and second, it's old. Large speaks for itself, you can get an idea of how large it is by just sticking your head inside the door. You can get an idea of its age when you see the huge planks that make the floor - likewise, the framing timbers that were used when such wood was plentiful.

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The history of the barn as a sale barn began in January, 1920 but, as Wm. Parker states later, it's history goes back many years before that.

At one time the lunch counter was a gathering place for local residents and visitors. Bob Shaw told me, "My! The groceries that went through that lunch room! It was so crowded that most of the time it was impossible to find a place to park."

At one time, in the late 1960's, there was a veterinarian located in the building. Dr. Joseph W. Green moved his practice to the barn from Danville. He had studied at Texas A & M Univ., graduating in 1943, and later got his masters, in re-production and nutrition, from Purdue Univ. He was a former head of the State Veterinary Board. I give that background to help those who aren't familiar with the barn, an idea of how big an operation the barn has been in the past.

Bob Shaw said, "When we were kids Burl Broadus and I used to drive the pigs and cattle. Our job was to keep them off people's yards. Sometimes there would be a renegade and there would be a little excitement. They'd give us a dime for doing that." It's hard for us to imagine today that hogs and cattle were driven up or down Michigan Ave. or McKee street.

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Gerald Strasburger, who owns the cleaning plant just south of the barn, remembers when it was a busy place. His dad, Joseph, owned it at one time. Other owners have included (but not limited to) Will Critser, Don Peters, Farrell Winkler, Kelly Smith, Charles Barns (The first owners to operate it only as a sale barn,) Robert and Wm. Hatton, Mr. & Mrs. Robert (Lefty) Phelps, Rucker, Nelson, Carrol and Sterling Triimble. Leon Clemons owned the building in December 1919 when it was sold to Smith and Barns. The present owner is Bob Cross from Sunman.

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The dates are important in researching a building like the Star Barn but, to me, it is much more interesting to listen to the memories of those who were a part of it in some way. The following includes some of a conversation that William and Clara Parker and I had one day in August. My many questions are not included.

William Parker: "The Star Barn originally was a livery stable. My father and I went to Versailles one summer, he felt sorry for our old horse, so he went down there and rented a horse and buggy, drove to Versailles and back the same day.

"The livery stable was called the Star Barn even then. Charles Young is, I think, the one who made a sale barn out of it. Joseph Strasburger was one of the early owners. You could rent horses, buggies and carriages at the barn."

Flora Parker: "My family lived down near the Sandcreek Baptist Church and we used to drive into town and put our horse and buggy in the Star Barn. So it was also a sort of Parking Garage. We'd put feed in the back of the buggy so they could feed it, then we'd get on the streetcar and go to St. Paul to visit my grandmother. Then we'd come back on the streetcar, walk from the station on E. Main St., down to the livery stable, get the horse and buggy and drive home."

William Parker: "You could take anything to the Star Barn you wanted to - furniture or anything - and they'd sell it for you on commission."

Clara Parker: "They also took in crates of ducks, chickens, geese and the like."

William Parker: "We hauled manure out of there, hundreds of loads, for several years to use on the farm. This helped the farmers and the Star Barn at the same time."

William Parker: "I remember some of the people who worked there. Perry Swegman worked there and everybody liked him. He was a fine man. Dale Moore, Ted McGuire, I.B. "Red" McGuire, Fred Ernest, Jim Flemming, George Borden, worked there, and George Greer was cashier and clerk for several years. They were all nice men. George worked at the Sale Barn in Rushville for many years too. The Rushville Sale Barn dealt more with horses.

"The workmen had to take care of the animals: clean out the stalls; feed and water them because people would bring them in ahead of time; if they got sick they had to tend to them; and just do whatever was necessary to care for the animals.

"Charlie Young ran that barn for several years. He lived on the Northwest corner of First and Broadway. Bill Critser, owned it at one time too. Bill would go to Kentucky, buy some hogs, and bring them up to the Sale Barn to sell.

"Charlie Garten and his brother Earl were two of the auctioneers. There were several who auctioneered there. It was a big operation for many years."

I hope this will stimulate the memory of others. I also hope that those readers will write them down and send to Van who will include them in a later Bullitin.

\$   \$   \$   \$   \$   \$   \$   \$   \$   \$   \$   \$   \$

Near Lewes Town, Delaware, June 26, 1826

Mr. Isaac Wilson  
Decatur County  
Indiana

Dear Father and Mother and Kittyan,

I embrace this favorable opportunity of writing to you by Mr. James Conwell; embracing this favorable opportunity of informing you that we are both well at present hoping that these few lines will find you are in good health we are still living near J. Prettyman's in the same house we moved to when we left Georgetown it being the house where James and Tho. Prettyman formerly lived in and we find it to be a grate deal Better Place for our Business than George Town.

You state in your letter that you as well as my Deare Child Kittyan laments and bemoans her self that she never expects to see me again and now as you have moved so much further from me I am afraid it will be the case but if it is our unhappy lot never to meet again in this world I am gratefully in hopes that we shall all meet in a fare Better where there will be Parting no more. I was most gloriously informed my Mr. J. Conwell that my deare Child Kittyan had embraced religion in her youth which is as much joy satisfaction to me (and more so) than if she had of had a fortune fall to her for it is the most valuable fortune that can be enjoyed in this life and in the end eternal life if you do but hold out faithful to the end.



Now to return Deare Kittyan be careful of yourself and keep no disrespectable company for people are thought of by every body according to the company they keep and deare father and mother you know more than she dos Please to direct and take care of her and the Lord will Reward you for it. She comparatively speaking is now just got in the Road through life that you have Part through, therefore you are able to protect and direct her in everything. Deare Kitty give yourself entirely to the Lord if He takes care of you it will be well done. Deare Father and Mother and Kittyan, I was yesterday informed by Mr. Conwell that you have left Kentucky and have got near Brother Robert for I have a confidence in him and in his children that they never will let you want for anything in this world for from undoubted information the Lord has blest him so much with this worlds goods that he can do it if necessary without injuring himself.

Deare father and mother and daughter, don't think as you have stated that we have fergot you for you are often contemplated on in my mind and if it is not my hapy lot to see you no more in this world I feel a hope of meeting you all in a fare better whare parting will be no more.

So I remain your affectionate daughter until death.

Samuel Jepson

Maggaret Jepson

MB I wish to be remembered to Brother Robert and his wife and children and all other enquiring friends, Please to tell James if he will come in I will go home with him. I wish him to come to this Place to see us before he gets married for we have a Plenty of Pretty girls that would look very well in your dark woods we have all Rote in a grate hurry and it is not very correct but you must take the will for the Deed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Note: The original handwritten letter is in the possession of Mrs. Betty Power Deacon, given to her by a distant Power cousin. It was found in a trunk belonging to his mother. I have transcribed a copy of the letter, sent to me from Betty Deacon.

My great-great-great grandparents are Isaac and Anna Wilson. They and their son Robert and wife Nancy Scott Wilson and Kittyann left Delaware for Kentucky (Fayette Co.) and then moved to Indiana. Robert Wilson was a farmer and fence-viewer and bought land in 1821 in Fugit Twp. in Decatur County. He helped lay out Clinton Twp. in 1829.

Robert's son James, mentioned in this letter, was born in Delaware in 1803 and married 29th of June 1826 to Matilda Young ( girl from Rush Co.) Kittyann married 14th of September 1826 to Darius Power in Decatur County. He was born in Harrison Co. KY. Kittyann was born in Delaware in 1808.

Samuel Jepson was a hatter by trade and was born in Maine 1785. Margaret, (Robert's sister) was born in Delaware 1792. They were listed in the 1850 Census in Lewestown, DE. In 1860 they were listed in Millsborough, DE, the same county (Sussex Co.) They were 75 and 68 years.

James Conwell founded the town of Laurel, IN. after his home in DE.

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#### THE HORACE HORSE THIEF DETECTIVE ASSOCIATION

The National Horse Thief Detective Association was started in 1860 for the purpose of apprehending horsethieves and all other felons against the state that their members might occure. In the early 1920's Indiana had over 16,000 members. In 1924 Decatur County had nine companies and 475 members.

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The dates are important in researching a building like the Star Barn but, to me, it is much more interesting to listen to the memories of those who were a part of it in some way. The following includes some of a conversation that William and Clara Parker and I had one day in August. My many questions are not included.

William Parker: "The Star Barn originally was a livery stable. My father and I went to Versailles one summer, he felt sorry for our old horse, so he went down there and rented a horse and buggy, drove to Versailles and back the same day.

"The livery stable was called the Star Barn even then. Charles Young is, I think, the one who made a sale barn out of it. Joseph Strasburger was one of the early owners. You could rent horses, buggies and carriages at the barn."

Flora Parker: "My family lived down near the Sandcreek Baptist Church and we used to drive into town and put our horse and buggy in the Star Barn. So it was also a sort of Parking Garage. We'd put feed in the back of the buggy so they could feed it, then we'd get on the streetcar and go to St. Paul to visit my grandmother. Then we'd come back on the streetcar, walk from the station on E. Main St., down to the livery stable, get the horse and buggy and drive home."

William Parker: "You could take anything to the Star Barn you wanted to - furniture or anything - and they'd sell it for you on commission."

Clara Parker: "They also took in crates of ducks, chickens, geese and the like."

William Parker: "We hauled manure out of there, hundreds of loads, for several years to use on the farm. This helped the farmers and the Star Barn at the same time."



William Parker: "I remember some of the people who worked there. Perry Swegman worked there and everybody liked him. He was a fine man. Dale Moore, Ted McGuire, I.B. "Red" McGuire, Fred Ernest, Jim Flemming, George Borden, worked there, and George Greer was cashier and clerk for several years. They were all nice men. George worked at the Sale Barn in Rushville for many years too. The Rushville Sale Barn dealt more with horses.

"The workmen had to take care of the animals: clean out the stalls; feed and water them because people would bring them in ahead of time; if they got sick they had to tend to them; and just do whatever was necessary to care for the animals.

"Charlie Young ran that barn for several years. He lived on the Northwest corner of First and Broadway. Bill Critser, owned it at one time too. Bill would go to Kentucky, buy some hogs, and bring them up to the Sale Barn to sell.

"Charlie Garten and his brother Earl were two of the auctioneers. There were several who auctioneered there. It was a big operation for many years."

I hope this will stimulate the memory of others. I also hope that those readers will write them down and send to Van who will include them in a later Bullitin.

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

Near Lewes Town, Delaware, June 26, 1826

Mr. Isaac Wilson  
Decatur County  
Indiana

Dear Father and Mother and Kittyan,

I embrace this favorable opportunity of writing to you by Mr. James Conwell; embracing this favorable opportunity of informing you that we are both well at present hoping that these few lines will find you are in good health we are still living near J. Prettyman's in the same house we moved to when we left Georgetown it being the house where James and Tho. Prettyman formerly lived in and we find it to be a grate deal Better Place for our Business than George Town.

You state in your letter that you as well as my Deare Child Kittyan laments and bemoans her self that she never expects to see me again and now as you have moved so much further from me I am afraid it will be the case but if it is our unhappy lot never to meet again in this world I am grately in hopes that we shall all meet in a fare Better where there will be Parting no more. I was most gloriously informed my Mr. J. Conwell that my deare Child Kittyan had embraced religion in her youth which is as much joy satisfaction to me (and more so) than if she had of had a fortune fall to her for it is the most valuable fortune that can be enjoyed in this life and in the end eternal life if you do but hold out faithful to the end.



Now to return Deare Kittyan be careful of yourself and keep no disrespectable company for people are thought of by every body according to the company they keep and deare father and mother you know more than she dos Please to direct and take care of her and the Lord will Reward you for it. She comparatively speaking is now just got in the Road through life that you have Part through, therefore you are able to protect and direct her in everything. Deare Kitty give yourself entirely to the Lord if He takes care of you it will be well done. Deare Father and Mother and Kittyan, I was yesterday informed by Mr. Conwell that you have left Kentucky and have got near Brother Robert for I have a confidence in him and in his children that they never will let you want for anything in this world for from undoubted information the Lord has blest him so much with this worlds goods that he can do it if necessary without injuring himself.

Deare father and mother and daughter, don't think as you have stated that we have fergot you for you are often contemplated on in my mind and if it is not my hapy lot to see you no more in this world I feel a hope of meeting you all in a fare better whare parting will be no more.

So I remain your affectionate daughter until death.

Samuel Jepson

Maggaret Jepson

MB I wish to be remembered to Brother Robert and his wife and children and all other enquiring friends, Please to tell James if he will come in I will go home with him. I wish him to come to this Place to see us before he gets married for we have a Plenty of Pretty girls that would look very well in your dark woods we have all Rote in a grate hurry and it is not very correct but you must take the will for the Deed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Note: The original handwritten letter is in the possession of Mrs. Betty Power Deacon, given to her by a distant Power cousin. It was found in a trunk belonging to his mother. I have transcribed a copy of the letter, sent to me from Betty Deacon.

My great-great-great grandparents are Isaac and Anna Wilson. They and their son Robert and wife Nancy Scott Wilson and Kittyann left Delaware for Kentucky (Fayette Co.) and then moved to Indiana. Robert Wilson was a farmer and fence-viewer and bought land in 1821 in Fugit Twp. in Decatur County. He helped lay out Clinton Twp. in 1829.

Robert's son James, mentioned in this letter, was born in Delaware in 1803 and married 29th of June 1826 to Matilda Young ( girl from Rush Co.) Kittyann married 14th of September 1826 to Darius Power in Decatur County. He was born in Harrison Co. KY. Kittyann was born in Delaware in 1808.

Samuel Jepson was a hatter by trade and was born in Maine 1785. Margaret, (Robert's sister) was born in Delaware 1792. They were listed in the 1850 Census in Lewestown, DE. In 1860 they were listed in Millsborough, DE, the same county (Sussex Co.) They were 75 and 68 years.

James Conwell founded the town of Laurel, IN. after his home in DE.

////////////////////////////////////

#### THE HORACE HORSE THIEF DETECTIVE ASSOCIATION

The National Horse Thief Detective Association was started in 1860 for the purpose of apprehending horsethieves and all other felons against the state that their members might occure. In the early 1920's Indiana had over 16,000 members. In 1924 Decatur County had nine companies and 475 members.

I have the minutes of the meetings of the Decatur County Horse Thief Detective Union starting in January 13, 1922 that met at the Court House in Greensburg two or three times a year. The first President was Frank Eubank, Secretary Earl Robbins and Sheriff Otis Maddox as Captain.

Section 4494 of the Burns Indiana Statutes states that with the consent of the Board of Commissioners of the County they designated any or all the members of the association Constables. The Constables have the power to pursue and arrest horse thieves and other criminals that disobey the laws of Indiana, and to follow and pursue the criminals through any part of the state and in the absence of a warrant have the power to arrest and hold in custody without a warrant for anytime as to be necessary to procure a warrant.

In the journal of the State Association in 1923 the statistical report was given as two horses and 60 autos recovered and 734 thieves captured and convicted the past year. Also the same year the resolution committee recommended that the punishment of all bank robbers shall be the death penalty.

The first minutes of the Horace Horse Thief Detective Association that I have was January 23 with 33 members present at the Horace one room brick School House, with Charles Sasser, President; Glen Evans, Secretary and Bert Lundy as Captain.

Some of the thefts the detectives had to work on the first year was a rug stolen from the Liberty Baptist Church, two horse bridles and lines from Earl Robbins, a 12 guage shot gun from Frank Myers, 50 frying chickens from Ernest McGee, a Model A Ford touring car, one dog, several hogs, gasoline and oil.

Several nights we would stand guard at a members chicken house, corn crib or machine shed. I remember one time we were stationed in back of a corn crib and after midnight here came a man with a sack in his hand. Either a dog barking or he sensed something was wrong he turned around and started back the lane.

We hurried him along by my Captain unloading his revolver and I my double barrel shot gun in his direction. I have often wondered what would happen if he would come on and got his corn. About this same time a neighbors boy was shot and killed south of Milroy stealing gasoline.

In the early 1920's and 1930's a member could make arrests and had the power that the sheriff had but in 1936 the Supreme Court ruled that this was unconstitutional and took all the power away from the association. I feel we filled a vital and necessary part of history to help keep law and order.

At this time the police and sheriff departments had better equipment, better trained personel, better communications and more man power.

We still had our meetings once a month with the sheriff attending and we supported him all we could. Around holloween time we would patrol the roads going by each members place to make sure everything was secure. The Horace Association disbanded in 1959 the last one in the state and I was the last President. The Trustee sold the building and contents and the building was soon full of hay and grain.

I still have many records, the gavel, the ballot box with black and white balls, some badges and a lot of memories. Gone is the secret password that could only be said in a whisper, the secret handshake, the secret detective investigation, the new member initiation, the once a year oyster soup supper for our families and the close fellowship with each other and made our community a better and safer place to live.

Submitted by: John E. Parker

////////////////////////////////////

#### MEMBERSHIPS and MEMORIALS

Historical Society of Decatur County, Inc.  
P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN. 47240

Yearly Membership \$5.00

Payable by January 1st.

Life Membership \$100.00

☒ Renewal

☐ New

☐ Gift

☐ Life

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

IF GIFTS: From \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

#### MEMORIALS

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
DECATUR COUNTY, INC.  
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GREENSBURG, INDIANA 47240

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/THE BULLETIN/

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 6 , No. 120

Greensburg, Indiana

January 1990

OCCASION: Thirtieth Annual  
Dinner Meeting of  
the Historical  
Society of Decatur  
County.

PLACE: Greensburg Presbyter-  
ian Church, NE corner  
of the Courthouse  
Square.

DATE: Sunday evening,  
Jan. 21, 1990 at  
6:30 P.M.

DINNER: By the ladies of the  
church. Dinner is  
\$6.00 each. Please  
reserve by check.  
Send it to Maurice  
Keith, RR# 1, Grbg.  
The deadline is the  
evening of Jan. 18th.

PROGRAM: The Society will be enter-  
tained by Judy Lamb & Agnes Wade of  
Indianapolis. They will present a  
program of music & narrations about  
the works of Irving Berlin. I can't  
think of any better music than that  
of the song writer, Mr. Berlin.  
Sounds like there is a delightful  
evening in store for all. This is  
one you can't miss. See you.

WESTPORT COVERED BRIDGE A group of  
interested folks from the Westport  
community headed up by, I believe,  
John Oldham have refurbished the  
old bridge. You ought to go take a  
look at it. They hope to give the  
roof another coat of paint this  
spring. If you would like to help  
them financially, send your money  
to the Historical Society treasurer  
Maurice Keith. This is a fine  
project.

FALL MEETING A goodly number of  
Society members were entertained at  
the Presbyterian Church by a program

of historical films. Two video  
films, "The Automobile-Born in  
Indiana", and "The Hoosier Poet  
(life of James W. Riley)" were  
enjoyed by the group. Refresh-  
ments and conversation were  
served after the showing. Pat  
Smith and Bill Hunter were in  
charge of the afternoon.

\* \* \* \* \*

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM

Tri Kappa Sorority  
Edna Martin Circle , Sardinia  
Baptist Church  
Airstream Tour Group

GIFTS to Society

Mr. & Mrs. Gilman Stewart  
Elizabeth W. Musser  
James Shannon  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Townsend

MEMORIALS

In memory of Howard Aldridge  
by Mrs. Howard Aldridge  
WESTPORT COVERED BRIDGE FUND  
In memory of Ollie (Surface)  
Wanner by Loretta Graf.  
Helen Parker  
Van P. Batterton in memory of  
Victoria Woolverton

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

The Market

At a public sale of negroes in  
Daklonega, Lumpkin County, on  
the 7th inst. the following  
prices were paid: A boy 17 yr.  
old \$1,104, a girl 19 \$1,150.50,  
Two boys the eldest 11 yrs. old  
\$860 & 822, a woman 35 yrs. old  
and child 4 yrs. old \$1,012,  
two small children \$650.

Dec. Rep. May 8, 1857

SPRINGS, "CRULLS (?)," AND SCHOOLS

By: Anna J. Foley

In the November '89 issue of THE BULLETIN Editor Van asks the location of the Greensburg Medical Spring, where a picnic was to have been held in 1857. A possibility is the farm on which I grew up. This was on the west side of the Millhousen Road, about two miles from town.

Some readers may remember the old Barnes Schoolhouse in that area, directly opposite a house on the east side of the road. There was a spring in a low place a little north of the schoolhouse. On the Beers ATLAS map of Washington Township the schoolhouse is shown as School Number 12, on the farm of G.B. Barnes, Senior.

Before my time, people "lived at the spring." Still earlier, I understand a Dr. Wheeldon (?) had a sanitarium there. The water was thought to be medicinal because it contained sulphur. I don't know when the sanitarium was in operation.

The spring overflowed, creating a swampy spot where a plant called calamus grew. Its leaves resembled those of iris, and had a peppery taste at the root end. The water had a thin oily scum on top; I can't recall whether it also had a sulphur smell. The spring wasn't our regular source of water, and I drank from it only as a novelty.

At the spring were a crabapple tree and a tulip tree, but the house was gone. It---or part of it---had been reincarnated as a chickenhouse of two rooms with a kind of porch between them. The rooms had dwelling house-type windows and doors, the doors opening on the porch. For a chickenhouse, the structure was fairly deluxe.

The approximate site of the spring can be seen from the road. I think the spring was made into a pond quite a while ago, and I seem to recall talk of putting a race track near by. I'm not sure whether there is a house on the site at present.

The remnants of the Barnes Schoolhouse were removed in comparatively recent times, after the building had fallen down little by little. If still standing, it would probably be approaching 100 years of age. I believe it was the second school house which had stood there.

Regarding the "crulls (?), a fried food mentioned in Mrs. Stimson's "Reminiscences." I will venture the guess that they were crullers, cousins to doughnuts.

Mrs. Stimson speaks of the Clemons Schoolhouse and of a school in a log meeting house "down the Madison Road". I think this meeting house would have been the Cross Roads Church of the play about the census taker. I don't know exactly where the Clemons School was, but it was in operation during at least part of my childhood. Its bell could be heard on the Millhousen (Madison) Road.

Mrs. Stimson also speaks of a later schoolhouse "perched on the right hand hilltop beyond Sand Creek." I Can't picture such a location, but the map does show a tributary of Sand Creek near the probable site of the log meetinghouse, and the land is hilly along there.

Also on the map is the name of Nancy Tisdale, next to Sand Creek Cemetery. I believe Mrs. Tisdale was Mrs. Stimson's mother. As a child, I heard the place spoken of as Stimson's, but think Mrs. Stimson had already moved away. The first people I can remember there were named Taylor. I was better acquainted on the "Madison Road" than on the "other road", i.e. the Michigan Road, now U.S. 421, which Mrs. Stimson called "29". There may have been people I don't recall before the Taylors.

\$      \$      \$      \$      \$      \$      \$      \$      \$      \$      \$

#### A WEEK IN THE "REVIEW"

By: Anna J. Foley

The following items are from THE SATURDAY REVIEW for September 3, 1892. The REVIEW was a weekly paper published in Greensburg with offices in the Montgomery Building on East Main Street, Phone No.8, editors, Montgomery and Willoughby. Rates were \$1.00 per year in Decatur County and \$1.25 outside the county, "always in advance."

The REVIEW carried many items of only a line or two, chiefly in columns entitled "Local Letters; A Mirror of the Every Day Doings of the Week," and "Personal Intelligence; Short Paragraphs Concerning People We All Know." The "Washington City" column was a regular political feature and "Literary Notes" commented on the contents of magazines which has come to the REVIEW's attention.

Eighteen ninety-two was an election year. The REVIEW was aggressively Republican with nothing good to say about the Democrats. Unfortunately, there is no way of knowing what the REVIEW's opposite number, THE NEW ERA, had to say about the Republicans. Surely, though, it gave as good as it got.

#### NEWS

##### Politics

Some Republican candidates were Benjamin Harrison for President; Ira J. Chase for Governor of Indiana; David A. Myers for prosecuting Attorney, Eighth District. There was also a local election.

The Republican campaign in Decatur County was to open on September 10 with a speaking in the Court House park. A republican glee club had been organized and was expected to be heard to the party's advantage.

The REVIEW reminded Republicans--but not voters generally--that they would lose their votes by moving to different townships or precincts after certain dates. "Republicans, be on your guard!" (Against wily Democrats who might try to get you to move??)



"Washington City", under the headline "Cholera", reported a possibility that cholera might be brought into the United States by immigrants. A fund for keeping out cholera had been cut by "petty economies," apparently of Democratic origin, so that there was insufficient money to impose a quarantine, should one become necessary. "Local Letters" said, "Get ready for the cholera!"

The REVIEW seems to have been a sore loser. If it rejoiced in Harrison's good luck in Decatur County, that fact was recorded in the fine print. In the large print were gloomy forebodings in rhyme.

"It Is All Over  
And the Victor's Name is Grover  
Now Milk and Honey Will Flow  
And the McKinley Bill Will Go (a tariff bill?)  
Working Men Will Get Four Dollars A Day  
And Receive Wild Cat Money For Their Pay."

These words were the headline for the REVIEW's analysis of the election.

#### OTHER NEWS

##### Fairs

The county fair has just had one of the biggest days in its history. "Henry Thorpe did a land office business in watermelons, but the lemonade men lost sales because of the cool weather." So did the operators of the "innocent games of chance," which were poorly patronized.

Exhibits mentioned were livestock; machinery, including windmills; household goods, sewing machines; pet birds; flowers. John Gayer's mare Adams Girl took second money in the three-year trot. First place went to Black Vic and third to Glencoe, owners' names not given.

The Greensburg Limestone Company sent a delegation of over 300 to the fair, all wearing blue badges to call attention to the size of the stone industry in the county. The quarry workers and their supervisor, Lindsey Jackson, were a fine looking, well behaved group.

The Indiana State Fair would be exceeded only by the World's Fair. The State Fair could be reached by two railroads and three electric street car lines. The fairgrounds, with picturesque walks and drives, were in a beautiful grove on Fall Creek. Buildings were new and modern, and each of the various types of product on display had its own exhibit hall. There was a complete water system on the fairgrounds.

The World's Fair would take place in Chicago (in 1893?). C.D. Tillson was offering a pass to the fair. Details were available "at the sign of the big watch."

##### City Park Place

This was a development projected for the northwest part of



the city. Its primary purpose was to induce a carriage factory to locate in Greensburg. An opportunity existed for obtaining the necessary land if the money to buy it could be raised by a certain time. Lots were on sale and the REVIEW published lists of purchasers, who were numerous.

Articles of Association had been adopted at a meeting at the Grand Opera House.

Art. I, Name: The Greensburg Improvement Association.

Art. III, Purpose: To promote and encourage the mechanical arts, and to buy and sell real estate in Decatur County.

Art. VII, Directors: For the first year, William B. Hamilton, Marshall Grover, John H. Christian, Louis Lathrop, David A. Myers.

Art. XIII, Membership: All purchasers of lots for not less than \$150.00.

Investment was described as a sure thing; apparently the investors were to get their money back if the purchase deadline were not met. Said the REVIEW, "Let the carriage factory be rushed."

City Park Place was not to be purely industrial, but was to include residential areas and a park as well. Its boundaries were a street to be called Seventh on the north; First Street on the south; Anderson Street on the east, and Park on the west. The factory was to be in the north part of the tract near the railroad.

Did the carriage factory come? I think so. The money was a little late coming in, but the street work had been started. Carver Street had been extended, and was "beautiful."

### Old Soldiers

A reunion of Civil War veterans was to be held in Greensburg in October. The GAR was having a national encampment in Washington, D.C. Three meals a day could be obtained for \$1.00, with cold lunches day or night at restaurant rates. Barracks would be provided for those who had not arranged housing in advance.

### Railroad

The Big Four was employing something over 100 men in and near the city. When the new water tank at the passenger station was used for the first time, the water could not be shut off and a small flood resulted. The railroad company was expecting to service an average of twenty-seven engines every twenty-four hours with about 2000 gallons of water per engine. This water would be metered.

Big Four passenger schedule: East bound, five trains daily and two on Sunday only.  
West bound, four daily; one Sunday only.

Scrapbook, about August, 1887

A New Steam Laundry.

"In a commendable spirit of enterprise, Will E. Cumback has decided to introduce a new industry in Greensburg and does not allow the grass to grow under his feet in carrying out his plans. He purchased last week in Chicago a complete outfit for a steam laundry, on the latest and most improved plan and expects to have the same in successful operation in this city inside of one month. The machinery will not be shipped for two weeks yet and the interim will be spent in preparation for its reception. Mr. Cumback will secure the help necessary to operate the establishment in the best manner and give satisfaction to patrons and give his personal attention to the business. If all the laundry which is sent from this city to the various city laundries could be kept at home, as it will be, success is assured. There has been a Chinese laundry here some months which has been exporting Greensburg cash to China at the rate of about \$30.00 per week and has been advertising for more help, which may also succumb to the pressure of the new establishment. In addition to local work Lawrenceburg, Batesville, Rushville, and similar and smaller towns will be solicited for trade. We are pleased to note the establishing of this new business here and would like to see our capitalists also putting money into industrial establishments tending to bring money into the town." (The paper would have liked to see the Chinese laundry squeezed out?)

Scrapbook, probably summer 1882

The public rack was unusually well filled with teams on Saturday. Not a vacant place on the four sides of the public square." (So what's new?)

Summer, 1885

"Miss Icy Snow Frost, a handsome and accomplished young lady of Harrison, O., is visiting Carrie and Sylvia Emmert, at present."

"Miss Fannie Gillespie got a severe fall Monday night, while crossing the ditch embankment which ornaments the South side of Central Avenue, for a couple of squares. She has been confined to her bed ever since.

\* \* \* \* \*

REMINISCENCES prepared by Mrs. E.C. Stimson for the HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Conclusion.....

One eccentric teacher distributed a stick of pink and white candy, two sugar kisses and six raisins to each pupil. This district school had an ideal play ground for winter sports--coasting down the hill on sleds, skating on the frozen ice of the creek, or vigorous snow balling were enjoyed by both boys and girls. I have spoken of transportation on the road prior to the coming of the railroad. After a few trains had been established on that and a local stock yard started, buyers collected the cattle and hogs from

the farms, drove them into it and loaded them upon freight trains, which carried them to the distant markets. One long familiar sight on "29" was the loaded wagons of cord wood which punctually passed between nine and ten A.M. with its supply of fuel for the town. Sometimes a dozen of these teams were in one train. Number "29" lost two dwellings by destructive fires. One a frame on the Madison road corner--the other the brick home at "Locust Grove". There have also been tragedies. A school boy was shaken from the foot log by the ice flood and carried down the stream to his death while the horrified pupils stood helpless on the banks. One dark stormy night two neighbors were returning from delivering stock in town and their frightened, blinded team plunged from the bridge on Cobbs Fork to the rocky bottom below with death for teams and men. Sometimes there were exciting renaways. Once a thirsty team of oxen left the road and plunged in deep water. There was also frequent excitement when men had lingered too long in the saloon of the town. A few of these on their homeward journey made night hideous with yells, singing or profanity. Once a party of these riding in a spring wagon, both men and women, had this experience. One of the number sat on the back seat and swayed back and forth with the motion of the wagon. It struck a stone and the jolt threw the reeling man under the wheels which passed over him. One women screamed Oh! Jake he fall out. The others looked, echoed the words and finally stopped the team. Two of the soberer ones went back to the prostrate "lump!" A woman who had seen the whole performance, offered a two gallon bucket of water and cup to aid his revival. They poured the water on his head. In a quarter of an hour, his first thick words were I'm cool enough now--I'm all right, and they dragged and lifted him and rolled him into the wagon. At present homes are close together. Four or five have filled the vacant places between the solitary ones of these days. For many miles into the country not a living descendent of those 40's and '50's has a home.

¶   ¶   ¶   ¶   ¶   ¶   ¶   ¶   ¶   ¶

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P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN. 47240

Yearly Membership \$5.00  
Life Membership \$100.00

Payable by January 1st.

☒ Renewal    ☐ New

☒ Gift    ☐ Life

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

IF GIFTS: From \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

#### MEMORIALS

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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John Olliger

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1290  
Mrs. Richard M. Miller  
2 Skyline Dr.  
Greensburg, IN 47240



/THE BULLETIN/

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 6 , No. 121

Greensburg, Indiana

May 1990

OCCASION: Spring meeting of the  
Decatur County Historical Society.

PLACE: Greensburg Presbyterian Church, So. entrance.

DATE: May 20, 1990. 2:30 PM

PROGRAM: Ruth Dorrell, editor of the genealogist magazine published by the State Historical Society, will give a program of various aspects of the state society and genealogy in general. Ruth comes highly recommended, lives in St. Paul. I do not know if she is on the Decatur side, but she must be good. She has worked at the Historical Society for some time, which has to be a very interesting way to make a living. I am not sure of the title of her talk, but I'm sure the contents will be such that you must not miss this get together. Come early for a good seat. See you there.

HELP - Articles and stories pertaining to history of the area are needed for the Bulletin. If you do not feel up to writing the item, just send a rough draft of the particulars to the editor. He will attempt to write it up or get someone who will, thank you.

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THANKS - The editor of this paper wished to recognize & thank those folks who have contributed so many fine stories & articles to the Bulletin. They are: Bill Parker, John Parker, Pat Smith, Anna Jo Foley & Allan Beall. These contributors have made the editor's life very pleasant.

MEMBERSHIP The number of members in the Society has been on the downward trend this past few years. The organization needs a revival along these lines. It would be fine if each member could influence someone new to join up. Why not try this from now until the summer meeting?

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

George Metz, Jr.  
Jacqueline Schryer - Hampton, VA.  
Mrs. William G. (Charlotte)  
Kincaid

Brian R. Keith  
Mrs. Brian R. (Tina) Keith  
Walter Schott  
Mrs. Tom (Glenda) Porter

DONATIONS

Ed Doerflinger

DUES

If there is a red star on your address label, it's a reminder to pay your dues for 1990. \$5.00 per member per year.

+ + + + +

ANNUAL MEETING was held at the Presbyterian Church, Sunday evening, Jan. 21st. The ladies of the church furnished a delightful meal for over 100 faithful members of the Society. A short business meeting was conducted by president Bill Hunter, bringing before the group various aspects of the organization, such as; needed repairs of the museum building, the raising of money to help with this, an increase of members, a suggested old house tour in the fall, etc. The program of music & narration of Irving Berlin's life by Judy Lamb and Agnes Wade of Indianapolis was just real fine. A very enjoyable evening.

## EARLY RAILROADS IN DECATUR COUNTY

At a session of the State Legislature of 1835-1836 an act of incorporation was provided for the Lawrenceburg and Indianapolis railway to pass through Napoleon, Greensburg, St. Omer and Shelbyville. A company was soon organized and considerable stock subscribed along the line. The financial crash of 1837 stopped its operation and the company was wiped out with the stockholders losing all they had paid in. A point south of St. Omer part of the fill for the original railroad may still be seen. The old stone abutments just south of the Brookville road at the east edge of Greensburg are still intact and stand as a grim reminder of the hard work and big expenditure of money which went into the lost enterprise.

In 1847-1848 another charter was obtained for the Lawrenceburg to Rushville and the line was to pass about six miles northeast of Greensburg. Aroused citizens of Greensburg blocked this move by a petition and by the citizens pledging to buy stock, the line was changed to go through Greensburg.

In the fall of 1852 the railroad entered Decatur County east of a town called Crackaway, and they established a new point on the line and in the summer of 1853, that first "Choo Choo" was pulled by a dinky engine christened the "Stephen Ludlow" rolled into Greensburg. Fred Lungen was the engineer and Jacob Mills was the conductor. The engine was named for Stephen Ludlow, one of the incorporators of the railroad. In November of 1853 the track was completed to Indianapolis.

Abundant timber was available for bridges, ties and fuel, but the iron for the track as well as the locomotive had to be brought in from the outside. Rails were brought from Liverpool England to New Orleans then up the Mississippi and Ohio River to Lawrenceburg. Most of the locomotives and cars were made in Boston and Philadelphia. At first the track was covered with a flimsy strip of iron but was soon changed to the heavier "T" rails.

At first the width of various lines were not uniform and sometimes a third rail was laid to make adjustments to handle cars from other lines. The equipment was crude and breakdowns were very common and frequently involved hazard to life and limb of passengers and even more to farm animals on the track.

Harry Minning, a local railroader who was an Uncle to Don Minning of Greensburg, told me that people would cut wood and pile it up along the track and when they needed wood for the engine they would stop and load on some. Also the water tank was filled by dipping a supply of water from some wayside stream with leather buckets which were carried on hooks at the side of the tender. From this practice we get the term "jerkwater" railroad which is still in use today. Going down a grade or stop, the engineer would blow his whistle and the brakeman in the engine and caboose would apply the brakes by hand on top of the individual cars and release them when they wanted to start or go up a grade.

Murray Gordon, who wrote, "Twigs from the Tower Tree" in the local paper several years ago told about hearing stories of hundreds of laborers most of them foreigners, were employed on construction of the road bed. They were mostly illiterate and very primitive in their ways of living. They lived in makeshift camps along the right-of-way and worked long hours for meager food and a few pennies a day. Also he heard stories that when a mad died on the job his body was tossed into the fill without ceremony. These are just stories however and probably originated in the fertile imagination of those who delighted in adding their own bits of drama to the actual facts.

The Vernon, Greensburg and Rushville Railroad was chartered in July 1897 and was completed in July 1881.

The Hope and Greensburg Railroad was chartered in January 1880 and was opened between Greensburg and Columbus in April 1884.

The three lines running through Greensburg were consolidated in 1899 to form the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad or the Big Four Route and make part of the New York Central System.

The Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad ran from the Pacific Ocean, east to the town of Westport, a distance of 2487 miles in 1890 to connect with the New York Central System. Westport has the distinction of having the eastern most terminal on a western railroad.

Before 1850 it required one or two weeks to handle merchandise in oxen carts from Greensburg to Indianapolis or Cincinnati over mud roads. The train could make the trip in less than one day.

In 1890 over 75 miles of track were in operation in Decatur County and going in five different directions from Greensburg and not counting the private railroad owned by the Harris City Stone Company that connected with the Lawrenceburg, Indianapolis line and later with the Vernon, Greensburg line.

In the 100 years the railroad was in business it brought new settlers, broke down rural isolation, transformed villages into cities, brought far reaching changes in agriculture and everyday life and hastened the beginning of mining and industry and contributed to the growth and prosperity to the people of Decatur County.

Submitted by: John E. Parker 1989

# # # # # # # # # # # #

AN OLD BRICK HOUSE JUST OFF THE SQUARE

There is a house in Greensburg of which you might not be aware. We find it on north Franklin a few steps from the square. No prizes will it take for it's convenience and its style,

But is surely beats all the rest by its character a mile,  
Of old red brick and timber of oak and poplar true.  
Those old time craftsmen built much better than they knew.  
Of sweat and skill they used in full measure and to spare  
To build a grand old home just off the public square.  
Now the Lathrops and the Shannons in this old house did dwell,  
And they gave to it its personality, it isn't hard to tell.  
Let's leave the busy street with its commerce and its hustle,  
And tarry on the porch and listen to the maples rustle.  
Lean way back in that old swing and close your eyes and dare  
To dream of days gone by in that old house so very near the square.  
I hear a voice calling from the doorway opened wide,  
Welcome to the museum and won't you please to step inside.  
We want to show you our keepsakes, both very great and small.  
And won't you sign the register on the table in the hall.  
Now come into the parlor to view all the treasures there.  
They are here to be admired so go ahead and stare.  
A grand piano and settee, and some ladies dresses, oh so fine.  
And the chandelier, how the light from it does shine.  
Now into the hallway with all the pictures on the wall  
Of the folks who lived here and the grand old clock so tall.  
Next the sitting room with fireplace and full bookshelf,  
Drink it all in, and at home make yourself.  
There are many more rooms with items dear and rare.  
In this old brick house that's just beyond the square.  
Oh, the dining room and kitchen, you mustn't overlook.  
Why, the things in these rooms would fill a grant book.  
And don't forget the toy room, most important of all.  
Here's where kids of all ages will surely have a ball.  
Let's climb the stairway to see what's on the upper floor.  
There's sure to be some treasures behind that bedroom door.  
Here we find an old rope bed with coverlet and baby cradle rare.  
We have the hallway yet and another room, I wonder what's in there?  
There are so many things. Where did they come from I do declare?  
That old brick house is surely full so very near the square.  
Oh, but you haven't seen near all, dear friend.  
Out to the garage we found it necessary to extend,  
So please to follow me out this way,  
And view the queer old gadgets on display,  
That were used by every farmer in days gone past.  
There's a shock tier, a shucking peg, and a shoemaker's list.  
How many of these are in a modern store?  
Durn few I betcha, that's for shore.  
Here's an old fire truck, a buggy and a lady's sidesaddle.  
If a body tried to remember all this his brain would addle.  
I extend this invitation to one and all  
To visit this old museum and you will fall  
In love with it as so many have and want to share  
The many treasures of this old house just a few steps from the square.

By: Allan L. Beall the po-ate



EXCERPTS - From Oscar Miller's Memoirs

During the Spring of 1894 there were to be officers selected nomination to be elected at the coming city election. The Republican Central Committee, through its chairman, announced that a mass convention would be held at the Big Wigwam, at the corner of Monfort and Washington Streets, to select by ballot the candidates for the various offices of the city. This notice announced the day and hour in May when this mass convention would be held. The candidates so chosen at this Republican convention would be voted on at the regular fall election in November.

Richard Elder had already announced or made it known that he would be a candidate for the office of mayor. I had not thought of being a candidate for any political office, as I was doing very well in learning to practice law. Cicero Northern had announced his intention to be a candidate on the Democrat ticket. Jim Caskey told me he thought I would make a formidable candidate for mayor, if I wanted it. The bee began to buzz around by ear, and it sounded like a political bee. Jim Caskey was one of the wheel horses of the Republican party. I had stumped the county for him and Tosh Hendricks in the campaign of 1888, and they were friendly to me. Besides this, Caskey was an editorial writer on a Greensburg paper. I had a talk with Judge Moore, and he had no objections to my making the try. It would be quite an honor, if I wanted the office.

I thought about the matter, and the bee still continued to buzz with now and then a sort of hum that seemed like it would fly away and let me alone. But in a day or so it would come back and set us a buzz that seemed to be a constant humming noise that did not annoy me, but seemed to be encouraging. So in this state of my political aspirations I concluded to cast my hat in the ring and find out how my political fortunes would come out. There were about twenty-two saloons in town; and while I never patronized them, I never did anything to antagonize them. Judge Moore would slip into Andy Rader's backdoor, now and then, and get a "good snort" of his wine or beer. One day he said he was in conversation with Charley Fromer, who ran a saloon a little further down on Broadway, and he told the Judge that he liked me very much. I also noticed that as soon as I became a candidate, a lot of this class of people were very friendly with me, and some of the sporting class sent word to ask how I intended to treat them. Of course, I told them it would be bad politics for me to make any promises to anyone, but if I were elected mayor, I should treat everyone justly. I said I had no friends to reward or any persons to punish. A lot of fellows came to me saying they expected to work for me. I always shook their hands and thanked them. Some claimed they could control a lot of votes. To this class of fellows I would thank them for their support, but always intimated that I had no campaign funds that were available. The Era was the only newspaper that I feared might be against me if I got the nomination. It was run by James E. Mendenhall, and he had married into the Ewing family, and the Ewings were my friends, although they were all Democrats.

I did not make much of a canvass, but I did meet a lot of people and did a good deal of handshaking. I did not have to shake hands with or electioneer the women, as they could not vote at that time; but I would smile whenever I thought it might influence a vote. But I never kissed the babies.

At last the day of the mass convention came on. By 7:30 the Big Wigwam was crowded to its limits, even the long balcony was well filled by people who had come there to see how a mass convention would be conducted. Richard Elder, my opponent, was there circulating around among the crowd and elbowing the old men to get the soldier vote. There was a big hum of voices and a good deal of pulling and hauling of the politicians for their favorite candidates. As for me, I had no organization, but went into the convention as a free lance, hoping that I would likely have a fair chance of getting the nomination. Judge Moore and I drifted around and got up on the stage. From this point of view we could see the pushing and surging that was going on among the tremendous crowd of people on the main floor. Among the crowd I saw a fellow whose nickname was "Shanty" Hawkins. He had drifted in from the Ohio River and gotten his name from having once lived in a shanty boat down on the big river. He had married a daughter of Chris Seitz, former owner of the Seitz Hotel. He had a big group of men around him, and was talking to them very earnestly. From his manouvers, I thought he was electioneering for me.

James E. Caskey, who was the big boss of the Republican Party, was the chairman of the convention; and after he had allowed the crowd to buzz, talk and wire-pull for about an hour, he took up the gavel and called the convention to order. He announced the purposes of the convention, to nominate candidates for mayor, city clerk, city treasurer and eight city councilmen. I never saw such a conglomerate mass of humanity as was crowded together in that large hall. There were doctors, lawyers, preachers, merchants, mechanics and men of all classes and professions. To this number was added a few saloon keepers and some of their customers, who had tuned up before coming to the convention. For be it known, some republicans as well as Democrats would tune up a little on festive occasions. My friend, Jim Clemons, the town marshal, was going about among the crowd to see that things were kept on an even keel. Everybody seemed to be happy and having a bully good time. Caskey was having some trouble in preserving order. He sounded the gavel; and when order was obtained, he appointed "Shanty" Hawkins and two other men to take charge of the ballot box. He then said, "You may now prepare your ballots for councilman in the first ward;" and those voters living in that ward were entitled to vote. Three men were appointed to canvass and count the ballots and announce the result. Then came the balloting for councilmen in the second ward, and following in secession the other two wards until all councilmen were chosen in regular order for all the wards of the city.

The chairman then ordered that voting for city clerk should then be in order. This went through very nicely; but when an order for voting for city treasurer came there was some commotion and some opposition to one of the candidates, but this was ruled out of order and the voting went on. In each case the ballot box was taken

up on the stage and surrendered to the committee to count the votes and announce the result. I was gratified to know that my friend Edward Siling was the chosen candidate.

Then came the order for voting for mayor. The voting for a candidate for this office was, for some cause, held by the chairman to be voted on as the last office of the evening. I noticed that there was considerably more interest shown as this voting proceeded than for the other offices. When the votes were all in, "Shanty" Hawkins, who has charge of the ballot box, stumbled and fell down and scattered the ballots all over the floor. But he and the others who had charge of the box picked up all the ballots that could be found and turned them over to the three men who were appointed to do the counting. This performance, "pulled off" by Hawkins, brought on a big commotion, and a demand was made that the vote be taken over. My opponent and his friends were insisting that the ballot be taken over. I remained quiet and said nothing. Jim Caskey, the chairman, said that a recount at this stage of the convention was all out of order, and ordered that the committee proceed with the counting of the ballots, which was done. I do not now remember the figures of this count, but I was nominated for mayor by almost two to one on the final count. It was then pronounced that I was the successful candidate for mayor.

At this announcement, there went up tremendous cheers and some got so enthusiastic that hats were thrown into the air. I got a wonderful ovation. Judge Moore said to me, "You had better get up on a chair and make them a speech, but don't say much." The stage was full of people standing up. So I climbed up on a chair, and when the crowd below saw me, the cheering became vociferous. I waved my hands for silence. I did not say much. I thanked them for the wonderful support they had given me, and said, "if I am elected mayor, I will endeavor to give that office my best attention in always looking to the best interests of the city and the people who live here."

It was my first introduction into city politics. I soon found that I was not a hardened politician, ready to take the quips, slurs and inuendoes that might be hashed up by the press. The day after my nomination the New Era came out in a long article, lambasting the things that went on at the city mass convention. It magnified the irregularities of the entire proceedings and told about the "fraudulent fiasco" performed by "Shanty" Hawkins in picking up and running away with the ballot box and making a feint as though he had caught his foot and fallen down so he could mix up the ballots. The fact that he fell down was merely a ruse so he could throw a lot of spurious ballots that he held in his hand and mix them with the ones that had been voted. The article went on to say that the crowd at this mass convention was the most conglomerate and disorderly set of rowdies ever assembled in the city. The carrying on by the hoodlums that seemed to have charge of that convention was disreputable and disgraceful in the extreme. And the respectable citizens and voters of this fair city will certainly remember the disorderly orgies enacted at this mass convention and vote not to get such a bunch of irresponsible men in possession of the city government. In this article the paper did not find any fault directed at me or the other candidates, but vented its spleen at the crowd that composed the personnel of the convention.

THIS WILL CONTINUE IN THE SUMMER ISSUE OF:  
THE BULLETIN

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2nd. V. Pres.....John A. Westhafer  
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DECATUR COUNTY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 163  
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1290  
Mrs. Richard M. Miller  
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Vol. 6 , No. 123

Greensburg, Indiana

November 1990

OCCASION: Fall Meeting of the  
Decatur County Historical Society.

PLACE: Greensburg Presbyterian  
Church, South entrance.

DATE: November 11, 1990  
2:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: Will be announced by  
radio & Newspaper.

Summer Meeting was held in the  
Presbyterian Church, August 5th  
with quite a few of the faithful  
in attendance. Jackie Mendenhall  
was in charge of the program  
which consisted of video inter-  
views with some of the old timers  
about the great depression of the  
thirties. Quite interesting, the  
film is at the local library, if  
anyone would like to see it.  
August 15th Morgan Miers conducted  
a tour to the State Fair, espec-  
ially to see the Farm Museum of  
Purdue. Several members took part  
in this adventure.

Genealogical Quieries

I would welcome correspondence re-  
garding my WILSON family. I do  
not know when or where Issac &  
Anna WILSON died. Robert, b. 1778,  
died 1833. Nancy m. 1843 John  
Miller who died 1848. Nancy died  
1883 at the age of 97, but where  
remains a mystery. (Doris Wilson  
McCave, 2013 Kynwyd Rd. Wilmington,  
De. 19810.

Wish to contact descendants  
of JOHN F. STEVENS, be. 2 April  
1814, Jeff. City, IN. and MARTHA  
GROVER whom he married in Greens-  
burg 15 Oct. 1844. John murdered  
10 June 1863 while acting as  
Draft Commissioner. Had 3 sons,  
3 dau. Am interested in John &  
Martha's ancestry. (Helen McCord  
207 Spring St., Catskill, NY 12414

SOCIETY'S THANKS goes to Lois  
Laskowski for the excellent Herb  
Garden she has established, and  
cared for in the backyard of the  
Museum.  
Also, thanks to the Garden Club  
for the flowers they have cul-  
tivated about the Museum.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Paul Walston  
Doris Wilson McCave, Wilmington, DE.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Charles A. Hessler, Indianapolis,

MEMORIAL

Given by Christina Flint Small  
in memory of her cousin,  
Dorothea Miller.

////////////////////////////////////

CURE FOR HYDROPHOBIA

As the season for the prevalence  
of this terrible disease is  
arriving, we shall do the public  
an essential service by pro-  
mulgating a knowledge of the  
following cure, which we have  
received from an attentive friend,  
on whose work implicit releance  
may be placed: "Friend McMakin:  
I send you the following receipt,  
which is said to be an infallible  
remedy to cure the bite of a mad  
dog: One gill of grated alecam-  
pane boiled in one pont of new  
milk, until it is reduced to a  
half pint. Dose, three table-  
spoonsful two hours before break-  
fast three mornings in seccession,  
and then miss three mornings,  
until it has been taken nine  
mornings. This remedy is well  
known and used in the neighborhood  
of Nicetown, and there are many  
persons living there who have been  
cured by this simple means.

# # # # #

Submitted by: PAT SMITH

Months ago Van asked me to write something for this publication and suggested that the Star Barn might be a subject to pursue. The Star Barn is one of those buildings that many of us, those who have never had any dealings with it, drive past and seldom really see. The first thing I did, therefore, was to go take a look at the building.

First of all, it's large, and second, it's old. Large speaks for itself, you can get an idea of how large it is by just sticking your head inside the door. You can get an idea of its age when you see the huge planks that make the floor - likewise, the framing timbers that were used when such wood was plentiful.

Of course, it's the history of the business that's been conducted in the barn that's of interest but that was difficult to come by. What follows is the little I was able to find plus the memories of some who remember the earlier days of the Star Barn. Not a lot of documented information was found but it is my hope that those readers who have memories of the Star Barn will write them down and send them to Van. It would be of interest to many and would be a way of preserving what information is available.

The Star Barn is located on the corner of S. Michigan Ave. and McKee Street. At one time the horse sales, held in the barn each week, attracted buyers from many states. The sales were held once a week until the start of World War II. During the War the sales were halted but were started again when the War ended. Any kind of animal could be purchased at the barn including cattle, goats, sheep, hogs, horses, ponies, and mules.

The history of the barn as a sale barn began in January, 1920 but, as Wm. Parker states later, it's history goes back many years before that.

At one time the lunch counter was a gathering place for local residents and visitors. Bob Shaw told me, "My! The groceries that went through that lunch room! It was so crowded that most of the time it was impossible to find a place to park."

At one time, in the late 1960's, there was a veterinarian located in the building. Dr. Joseph W. Green moved his practice to the barn from Danville. He had studied at Texas A & M Univ., graduating in 1943, and later got his masters, in re-production and nutrition, from Purdue Univ. He was a former head of the State Veterinary Board. I give that background to help those who aren't familiar with the barn, an idea of how big an operation the barn has been in the past.

Bob Shaw said, "When we were kids Burl Broadus and I used to drive the pigs and cattle. Our job was to keep them off people's yards. Sometimes there would be a renegade and there would be a little excitement. They'd give us a dime for doing that." It's hard for us to imagine today that hogs and cattle were driven up or down Michigan Ave. or McKee street.

John Oliger has other memories of the barn. "My cousins, the Oligers, lived nearby and we kids would go over to the barn and try talking them into letting us ride the horses."

Gerald Strasburger, who owns the cleaning plant just south of the barn, remembers when it was a busy place. His dad, Joseph, owned it at one time. Other owners have included (but not limited to) Will Critser, Don Peters, Farrell Winkler, Kelly Smith, Charles Barns (The first owners to operate it only as a sale barn,) Robert and Wm. Hatton, Mr. & Mrs. Robert (Lefty) Phelps, Rucker, Nelson, Carrol and Sterling Triimble. Leon Clemons owned the building in December 1919 when it was sold to Smith and Barns. The present owner is Bob Cross from Sunman.

When I interviewed L. Wayne Miers a couple of years ago he mentioned that he had carried the mail in a horse and buggy. "The roads were so bad you couldn't get through with a car except if it had been dry weather or the ground was frozen. I hired horses from Leon Clemons who had a livery stable where the Star Barn is now."

The dates are important in researching a building like the Star Barn but, to me, it is much more interesting to listen to the memories of those who were a part of it in some way. The following includes some of a conversation that William and Clara Parker and I had one day in August. My many questions are not included.

William Parker: "The Star Barn originally was a livery stable. My father and I went to Versailles one summer, he felt sorry for our old horse, so he went down there and rented a horse and buggy, drove to Versailles and back the same day.

"The livery stable was called the Star Barn even then. Charles Young is, I think, the one who made a sale barn out of it. Joseph Strasburger was one of the early owners. You could rent horses, buggies and carriages at the barn."

Flora Parker: "My family lived down near the Sandcreek Baptist Church and we used to drive into town and put our horse and buggy in the Star Barn. So it was also a sort of Parking Garage. We'd put feed in the back of the buggy so they could feed it, then we'd get on the streetcar and go to St. Paul to visit my grandmother. Then we'd come back on the streetcar, walk from the station on E. Main St., down to the livery stable, get the horse and buggy and drive home."

William Parker: "You could take anything to the Star Barn you wanted to - furniture or anything - and they'd sell it for you on commission."

Clara Parker: "They also took in crates of ducks, chickens, geese and the like."

William Parker: "We hauled manure out of there, hundreds of loads, for several years to use on the farm. This helped the farmers and the Star Barn at the same time."

William Parker: "I remember some of the people who worked there. Perry Swegman worked there and everybody liked him. He was a fine man. Dale Moore, Ted McGuire, I.B. "Red" McGuire, Fred Ernest, Jim Flemming, George Borden, worked there, and George Greer was cashier and clerk for several years. They were all nice men. George worked at the Sale Barn in Rushville for many years too. The Rushville Sale Barn dealt more with horses.

"The workmen had to take care of the animals: clean out the stalls; feed and water them because people would bring them in ahead of time; if they got sick they had to tend to them; and just do whatever was necessary to care for the animals.

"Charlie Young ran that barn for several years. He lived on the Northwest corner of First and Broadway. Bill Critser, owned it at one time too. Bill would go to Kentucky, buy some hogs, and bring them up to the Sale Barn to sell.

"Charlie Garten and his brother Earl were two of the auctioneers. There were several who auctioneered there. It was a big operation for many years."

I hope this will stimulate the memory of others. I also hope that those readers will write them down and send to Van who will include them in a later Bullitin.

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Near Lewes Town, Delaware, June 26, 1826

Mr. Isaac Wilson  
Decatur County  
Indiana

Dear Father and Mother and Kittyan,

I embrace this favorable opportunity of writing to you by Mr. James Conwell; embracing this favorable opportunity of informing you that we are both well at present hoping that these few lines will find you are in good health we are still living near J. Prettyman's in the same house we moved to when we left Georgetown it being the house where James and Tho. Prettyman formerly lived in and we find it to be a grate deal Better Place for our Business than George Town.

You state in your letter that you as well as my Deare Child Kittyan laments and bemoans her self that she never expects to see me again and now as you have moved so much further from me I am afraid it will be the case but if it is our unhappy lot never to meet again in this world I am gratefully in hopes that we shall all meet in a fare Better where there will be Parting no more. I was most gloriously informed my Mr. J. Conwell that my deare Child Kittyan had embraced religion in her youth which is as much joy satisfaction to me (and more so) than if she had of had a fortune fall to her for it is the most valuable fortune that can be enjoyed in this life and in the end eternal life if you do but hold out faithful to the end.



Now to return Deare Kittyan be careful of yourself and keep no disrespectable company for people are thought of by every body according to the company they keep and deare father and mother you know more than she dos Please to direct and take care of her and the Lord will Reward you for it. She comparatively speaking is now just got in the Road through life that you have Part through, therefore you are able to protect and direct her in everything. Deare Kitty give yourself entirely to the Lord if He takes care of you it will be well done. Deare Father and Mother and Kittyan, I was yesterday informed by Mr. Conwell that you have left Kentucky and have got near Brother Robert for I have a confidence in him and in his children that they never will let you want for anything in this world for from undoubted information the Lord has blest him so much with this worlds goods that he can do it if necessary without injuring himself.

Deare father and mother and daughter, don't think as you have stated that we have fergot you for you are often contemplated on in my mind and if it is not my hapy lot to see you no more in this world I feel a hope of meeting you all in a fare better whare parting will be no more.

So I remain your affectionate daughter until death.

Samuel Jepson

Maggaret Jepson

MB I wish to be remembered to Brother Robert and his wife and children and all other enquiring friends, Please to tell James if he will come in I will go home with him. I wish him to come to this Place to see us before he gets married for we have a Plenty of Pretty girls that would look very well in your dark woods we have all Rote in a grate hurry and it is not very correct but you must take the will for the Deed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Note: The original handwritten letter is in the possession of Mrs. Betty Power Deacon, given to her by a distant Power cousin. It was found in a trunk belonging to his mother. I have transcribed a copy of the letter, sent to me from Betty Deacon.

My great-great-great grandparents are Isaac and Anna Wilson. They and their son Robert and wife Nancy Scott Wilson and Kittyann left Delaware for Kentucky (Fayette Co.) and then moved to Indiana. Robert Wilson was a farmer and fence-viewer and bought land in 1821 in Fugit Twp. in Decatur County. He helped lay out Clinton Twp. in 1829.

Robert's son James, mentioned in this letter, was born in Delaware in 1803 and married 29th of June 1826 to Matilda Young ( girl from Rush Co.) Kittyann married 14th of September 1826 to Darius Power in Decatur County. He was born in Harrison Co. KY. Kittyann was born in Delaware in 1808.

Samuel Jepson was a hatter by trade and was born in Maine 1785. Margaret, (Robert's sister) was born in Delaware 1792. They were listed in the 1850 Census in Lewestown, DE. In 1860 they were listed in Millsborough, DE, the same county (Sussex Co.) They were 75 and 68 years.

James Conwell founded the town of Laurel, IN. after his home in DE.

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#### THE HORACE HORSE THIEF DETECTIVE ASSOCIATION

The National Horse Thief Detective Association was started in 1860 for the purpose of apprehending horsethieves and all other felons against the state that their members might occure. In the early 1920's Indiana had over 16,000 members. In 1924 Decatur County had nine companies and 475 members.

I have the minutes of the meetings of the Decatur County Horse Thief Detective Union starting in January 13, 1922 that met at the Court House in Greensburg two or three times a year. The first President was Frank Eubank, Secretary Earl Robbins and Sheriff Otis Maddox as Captain.

Section 4494 of the Burns Indiana Statutes states that with the consent of the Board of Commissioners of the County they designated any or all the members of the association Constables. The Constables have the power to pursue and arrest horse thieves and other criminals that disobey the laws of Indiana, and to follow and pursue the criminals through any part of the state and in the absence of a warrant have the power to arrest and hold in custody without a warrant for anytime as to be necessary to procure a warrant.

In the journal of the State Association in 1923 the statistical report was given as two horses and 60 autos recovered and 734 thieves captured and convicted the past year. Also the same year the resolution committee recommended that the punishment of all bank robbers shall be the death penalty.

The first minutes of the Horace Horse Thief Detective Association that I have was January 23 with 33 members present at the Horace one room brick School House, with Charles Sasser, President; Glen Evans, Secretary and Bert Lundy as Captain.

Some of the thefts the detectives had to work on the first year was a rug stolen from the Liberty Baptist Church, two horse bridles and lines from Earl Robbins, a 12 guage shot gun from Frank Myers, 50 frying chickens from Ernest McGee, a Model A Ford touring car, one dog, several hogs, gasoline and oil.

Several nights we would stand guard at a members chicken house, corn crib or machine shed. I remember one time we were stationed in back of a corn crib and after midnight here came a man with a sack in his hand. Either a dog barking or he sensed something was wrong he turned around and started back the lane.

We hurried him along by my Captain unloading his revolver and I my double barrel shot gun in his direction. I have often wondered what would happen if he would come on and got his corn. About this same time a neighbors boy was shot and killed south of Milroy stealing gasoline.

In the early 1920's and 1930's a member could make arrests and had the power that the sheriff had but in 1936 the Supreme Court ruled that this was unconstitutional and took all the power away from the association. I feel we filled a vital and necessary part of history to help keep law and order.

At this time the police and sheriff departments had better equipment, better trained personel, better communications and more man power.

We still had our meetings once a month with the sheriff attending and we supported him all we could. Around holloween time we would patrol the roads going by each members place to make sure everything was secure. The Horace Association disbanded in 1959 the last one in the state and I was the last President. The Trustee sold the building and contents and the building was soon full of hay and grain.

I still have many records, the gavel, the ballot box with black and white balls, some badges and a lot of memories. Gone is the secret password that could only be said in a whisper, the secret handshake, the secret detective investigation, the new member initiation, the once a year oyster soup supper for our families and the close fellowship with each other and made our community a better and safer place to live.

Submitted by: John E. Parker

////////////////////////////////////

#### MEMBERSHIPS and MEMORIALS

Historical Society of Decatur County, Inc.  
P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN. 47240

Yearly Membership \$5.00  
Life Membership \$100.00

Payable by January 1st.

☒ Renewal    ☐ New    ☐ Gift    ☐ Life

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

IF GIFTS: From \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

#### MEMORIALS

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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President.....William H. Hunter  
N. Stewart St, Grbg.  
Ph: 663-5479  
1st. V. Pres.....Readawn Metz  
2nd. V. Pres.....John A. Westhafer  
Rec. Sec.....Juanita Beall  
Cor. Sec.....Peg Miller  
Treas.....Maurice Keith

DIRECTORS

Diana Swegman  
James H. Biddle  
Patricia Smith  
Robert Conwell  
Allan Beall  
Diana Springmier

EDITOR OF BULLETIN

Van P. Batterton  
525 N. Broadway St.  
Greensburg, IN. 47240

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
DECATUR COUNTY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 163  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA 47240

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Jackie Mendenhall  
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MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Lee Lauderdale  
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COUNTY HISTORIAN

Dale Myers  
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Greensburg, IN 47240



DECATUR COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS'

NEWSLETTER

225 East Main Street  
Greensburg, Indiana

Mary Lou Bausback, Editor

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VOLUME XVII

JUNE

1990

NUMBER VI

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June 1, 1990

Dear Friends,

A rainy and cool May has departed. We are looking forward to some beautiful weather so the garden and crops may grow and produce good harvests.

Area XI Senior Citizens' Day at the Columbus Mall was exciting. There were informative displays, entertainment, and the presentations of the Older Hoosier Candidates as well as the Area XI Senior Queens' Contestants. How very proud we were when Decatur County's Mary Friedersdorf was crowned Queen of Area XI. She is now given the title of Area XI Woman of the Year. Now we are awaiting the competition of The Older Hoosier of the Year and wishing Kenneth Wallpe, our Decatur County candidate the very best as he represents us.

The Parks and Recreation dinner meeting was well attended and we thank you. The dinner was bountiful and the decorations beautiful. I wish to thank all who had a part.

I wonder how many persons receive the Newsletter and have never availed themselves of the programs, classes and fellowship at the Senior Center. So much is offered and the staff works very hard to make everyone happy. If you have never tried the Senior Center you are missing something great.

June is the month of roses and weddings. Many happy occasions happen in June such as Fathers' Day, school Alumni Reunions, picnics and perhaps a vacation trip. Please take care and keep yourselves safe and happy.

Your President,

Evelyn Mills

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GOLDEN RULES FOR LIVING

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| * If you open it, close it.                            | * If you turn it on, turn it off.                                       |
| * If you unlock it, lock it up.                        | * If you break it, admit it.  |
| * If you can't fix it, call in someone who can.        | * If it belongs to someone else and you want to use it, get permission. |
| * If you borrow it, return it.                         | * If you value it, take care of it.                                     |
| * If you make a mess, clean it up.                     | * If you move it, put it back.  |
| * If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone. | * If it's none of your business, don't ask questions.                   |

From Ann Landers' Column, Los Angeles Times



DINNER MEETING

About sixty persons attended the Senior Citizens' pitch in dinner at the Parks and Recreation building on Tuesday evening, June 12. The tables were decorated with peonies in rose bowls.

President Evelyn Mills led in the salute and pledge to the flag and Chaplain Robert Rooker gave the table grace.

After the meal, the President welcomed all present and thanked the dinner committee, Ann Ray, Owen and Marge Tucker, Wanda Tellas, Walter Morgason and Virginia Miller.

She asked Barbara Nolting, Assistant Center Director to give the Director's report. Barbara thanked all those who took part in the programs featured during May's celebration of Older Americans' Month. She told of upcoming events such as the Fathers' Day program on Monday June 18; the trip to John Parker's log cabin on Friday the 13th; Conner Prairie and the Childrens' Museum on July 24 and the Diner's Club at Penntown on July 31. There will be a bake sale late in July or on the 11th of Aug for a fund-raiser. Maria Showers will conduct a Spanish Class starting in July for six weeks, the price to be \$12.00 a person.

Sylvia Brand gave the Secretary's report which was accepted. Sylvia read the following cheer-card report for May, as we had no business last month. Virginia Tetrick had sent get-well cards to: Margery Richards, Lois Badgley, Wilma Lawrence, Fairy White, Nolan Redington, Mabel Lutes, Celeste Scheidler, Lena Brown, Loren Sefton, Helen Muckerheide and Ida Turner. A sympathy card was sent to Willy Smith. Virginia reported the following cards sent in June: get well cards to, Rosaline Gerling, Georgia Sefton, Zue Mitchell, Ethel Logan, Nelson Furnish. Sympathy cards were sent to Edna Grissom and Frances Robbins.

Beulah Mae Knarr gave the Treasurer's report which was accepted. She stated that we had eight new members.

Herman and Luella Wells were introduced as guests.

Happy Anniversary was sung to Jim and Margaret Hart, married forty-three years and Ken and Lucille Wallpe, married forty-four years.

Robert Rooker was the only person present having a birthday in June. Happy birthday was sung to him.

Vice-President Belva Stapp gave a humorous reading about Fathers.

Evelyn Mills gave a tribute to the American Flag which the Continental Congress adopted on June 14, 1777.

Chaplain Robert Rooker conducted an impressive Memorial for the thirty-eight persons we have lost from our Senior Citizens' roll. He read from Psalms 90 and from Revelations 21: Verses 1 through 6.

A white cloth covered a table which held a cross and a bouquet of vari-colored flowers. The names of the deceased were written on white slips of paper decorated with pink and blue rosettes. As Robert called the names of the men, Margaret Hart pinned them on the cross; then Margaret read the names of the ladies and Robert pinned their names.

The sing-a-long group from the Senior Center sang two numbers; "How Great Thou Art" and "The Old Rugged Cross".

Margaret Hart read the poem entitled "The House by the Side of the Road".

Evelyn Mills read a lovely original poem, "For These, Our Friends we Honor Tonight".





KENNETH WALLPE  
1990 OLDER HOOSIER  
Of The YEAR

MARY FRIEDERSDORF  
1990 DECATUR COUNTY  
SENIOR CITIZEN QUEEN



Born in Batesville, In., Kenneth J. Wallpe grew up on a farm near St. Maurice. He graduated from Clarksburg High School.

Going into service in Oct. 1945, he served as Honor Guard for Pres. Harry Truman. While in service, he married Lucille Wenning and they are the parents of 5 children and 7 grandchildren. After his military duty, he worked at Johnston's Wholesale for awhile then purchased and operated the Western Auto Store.

He also worked 8 years as a substitute mail carrier.

He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the American Legion, and a past member and Director of the Greensburg Chamber of Commerce. He was County Commissioner for four years and served as President of its Board.

He has been Soil and Water Supervisor for Decatur County since being appointed by the Governor 21 years ago and has served in innumerable offices in the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation District. He is now its immediate past President, a position he will hold for 2 years.

At the present time, Mr. Wallpe is serving on the White Water Park Commission for Indianapolis, a position to which he was appointed by the Governor in 1982 and he is also a member of the Decatur County Weed Control Board for the County Commissioners.

We are proud to present him as our Older Hoosier.

Mary Friedersdorf, our new Decatur County Senior Citizen Queen is a widow who leads a busy life.

She is a member of the Sardinia Baptist Church, serving that body in a number of activities.

Before her marriage to Robert Friedersdorf, she was a Secretary in the Production Credit office and also worked in the Cummins and Arvin factories in Columbus.

She is the mother of four children and eleven grandchildren. Under "hobbies", she lists her children and grandchildren first, then cooking, volunteering and church work.

Mrs. Friedersdorf belongs to the Hi-Nabor Extension Club, Red Cross Hospital Volunteers, Decatur County Couples Club, Literary Club, Mission Society, the Alert Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, AARP, Decatur County Porkettes and the Columbus Senior Center.

She received the Decatur County Certificate of Distinction in 1971 and in 1987 the Bell Ringer Award from Elanco Products and the Decatur County Pork Producers.

She is a past member of the Decatur County United Fund Board, a member of the Decatur County Cancer Board and has held a number of offices in her Chapter of Eastern Star.

She does much volunteer work.

A lovely Senior Queen for 1990!



### PARKER HOUSE ROLLS

In Boston, "Parker House" means "hotel", but in the rest of the country it means "rolls" thanks to a German baker named Ward who first made the delicate dinner roll at the hotel in the late 1850s. The crustless roll with the fold (perfect spot for a pat of butter) was an instant success at the hotel and soon thousands of them were made and shipped daily to hotels in cities as far west as Chicago.

The Parker House no longer ships its famous rolls, but it still makes 12,000 of them every week to serve in the dining rooms of the Boston landmark. Here is Baker Ward's original recipe, scaled down for home use.

#### The Original Parker House Rolls

1 package (1 scant T.) dry yeast  
¼ c. warm water  
2 cups milk  
2 T. sugar  
2½ t. salt  
3 T. butter  
3 cups all-purpose flour  
2½ -3 cups additional flour  
melted butter

In a large bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. Combine milk, sugar, salt, and butter in a saucepan, scald, then cool to lukewarm. Add yeast and stir. Add 3 cups flour and beat with a wooden spoon until smooth and creamy. Cover bowl with plastic wrap or a damp towel. and let rise in a warm spot for 1 hour, or until light and bubbly. Add enough of the additional flour to make a soft dough. Knead for several minutes. Return dough to a greased bowl and let rise again until doubled. Punch down, and roll the dough on a floured board into a rectangle 1/3" thick. Cut the dough into 3" squares and brush with melted butter. Stretch each square, fold over and tuck under so the roll doesn't develop a "grin" when it bakes. Flatten slightly and place on buttered cookie sheets 1/8" apart. Let rise for 45 minutes, until almost doubled. Bake at 400 for 10 to 12 minutes. Remove from oven and brush with melted butter. Break apart to serve. Makes about 3 dozen.

Ed. Note: I have not made this recipe I wondered about combining the yeast and

the warm water at this point. It takes 20 minutes to half an hour to cool the milk mixture. My thought would be to wait a few minutes before combining them. This recipe was copied from YANKEE MAGAZINE

& & &

### STRAWBERRY JELLY

SWEEPSTAKES AWARD WINNER

INDIANA STATE FAIR

3½ cups strawberry juice (3 quarts fully ripe berries)

Water

1 (1.75-ounce) box powdered fruit pectin  
5 cups sugar

To make strawberry juice, remove caps from strawberries, then place berries in medium saucepan. Crush berries, one layer at a time. Add water to cover berries, cover and heat gently. Simmer for 20 minutes. Strain juice, set aside for at least 1 hour until juice separates and top layer of juice becomes clear. Measure 3½ cups clear juice for jelly, discarding bottom (cloudy) layer. Bring juice to boil, stir in powdered fruit pectin, then add sugar. Bring to a rolling boil that cannot be stirred down; stir in this manner for 1 full minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; skim off foam with a large spoon. Immediately fill jars, leaving ¼ inch head space. Seal with hot canning lids.

Makes 5½ to 6 cups jelly. Preparation time: About 3 hours.

\*\*\*\*\*

### FRIDAY NIGHT CONTRACT BRIDGE

May 4-	Clarise Elston	4260
	Ruth Cutsinger	4230
May 11-	Orville Pitts	5030
	Ellen Major	4190
May 18-	Thelma Horton	5260
	Ellen Major	4290
May 25-	Mildred DeMoss	3970
	Gert Wisswell	3650

If you would like to play contract on Friday night, get in touch with Orville Pitts or Mary Lou Bausback.



# UPCOMING TRIPS

The following trips are being planned at the Senior Center. Please note when sign ups begin AND close.

LOG CABIN TOUR: On Friday, July 13th from 1:45 to 3:30 p.m. we will be touring John Parker's Log Cabin.

Cost is 50¢ for transportation by van. Sign up begins June 13th and closes July 9th.

CONNER PRAIRIE & CHILDRENS' MUSEUM: On Tuesday, July 24th, we will be taking a day tour of Conner Prairie and the Indianapolis Childrens' Museum.

8:30 - 5:30 Cost is \$21. for transportation by school bus, admission to both places lunch, tax, & tip. Sign up begins June 13th and closes July 18th.

DINER'S CLUB - OLD BRICK TAVERN: On Tuesday July 31st, we will be going to the Old Brick Tavern in Penntown for the evening meal. The house specialty is fried chicken with dinner entrees priced under six dollars (\$6.00). Entertainment and a sing-a-long will be provided for our enjoyment.

Cost is \$4.50 per person for transportation by van. Sign up begins June 27th and closes July 26th.

\*\*\*\*\*

## FRIDAY NIGHT DUPLICATE BRIDGE

May 4-

### North-South

Peg Elder and Dots Meyer	73
Niomi Nickel and Mildred Lovell	65

### East-West

A tie between:

Bob and Pat Rooker	
Dorotha Wenning and Lena Platt ea.	51½
Jinny Carney and Dorothy Fogg	51

May 18-

### North-South

Wayne and Ruth Tomson	71
Jinny Carney and Dorothy Fogg	65½

### East-West

Shirley Gibson and Kathy Fischer	73½
Don and Ruth Wissel	63

\*\*\*\*\*

AND THE WINNERS ARE: Evelyn Mills won the baby afghan that was raffled off Senior Center Week, and Beulah O'Banion won the handmade quilt that was our May fund-raiser.

## DEADLINE APPROACHING

Tickets are still available for a trip to Beef-n-Boards to see "Music Man" on Wednesday June 20 being sponsored by the Greensburg Senior Center. The deadline is June 8. (Payment is required at the time of registration).

Call 663-2232 for more details.

\*\*\*\*\*

## DANCE

Thirty-four persons attended the dance at the Center on May 31st.

Everyone was happy to see Lois Badgley back playing with "The Guys".

Gerry and Lee Luther danced to the Anniversary Waltz. They were celebrating their 44th Wedding Anniversary.

Margaret Hart and Pat Rooker served refreshments during the break.

\*\*\*\*\*

Middle age is the time when a man is always thinking that in a week or two he will feel just as good as ever."

Readers' Digest



## JOIN US FOR LUNCH!

Area XI Agency on Aging sponsors a nutrition site at the Greensburg Senior Center, and you are welcome to join us anytime! A hot, balanced meal is served Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. The cost is a donation. Reservations are required by calling 663-2232 twenty-four hours in advance.

Monthly menus are available at the Center. Weekly menus are posted in the Greensburg Daily News each Saturday. Daily menus are announced on WTRE (AM 1330) on Cafeteria Corner at approximately 7:20 a.m.

Homebound meals are also available. Call for details.

Katherine Scheidler is our Nutrition Director and her friendliness and helpfulness makes you feel like you are back in your mother's kitchen. Ed, Note

\*\*\*\*\*

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN IN EACH TIME YOU VISIT THE CENTER.

\*\*\*\*\*

## MONDAY NIGHT EUCHRE

### May 7-

High for women, Marge Schwarber 91  
Second, Evelyn Riley 89

Most lones, a tie between  
Vera Mann and Dorothy Hurst ea. 5

High for men, Jack Hurst 97  
Second, Albert McLaughlin 81

Most lones, Elmer Berryman 7

Low: Mary Barnes

### May 14-

High for women, a tie between  
Marge Schwarber and Vonnie  
Hurst ea. 90  
Second, Martha Fry 86

Most lones, Dora Cleland 6

High for men, Elmer Berryman 95  
Second, Bill Hayes 94

Most lones, Marion Barnes 6

Low: Nora Larrison

## MAY EUCHRE

### May 21-

High for women, a tie between Mildred  
Berkemeier and Frances Meer ea. 87

Second, a tie between Mary  
Barnes and Bernadine Strunck and  
Celeste Scheidler ea. 86

Most lones, a tie between Dora  
Cleland and Naomi McLaughlin ea. 5

High for men, Hurshell Smith 89

Second, Lawrence Koors 86

Most lones, Clayton Klink 7

Low: Ed Schwendenmann

\*\*\*\*\*

## MAY BOWLING

Don Martin	203
Elsworth Cook	180
Ralph Adams	173
Jim Gerbino	169
Walter Byard	159
Bernadine Strunck	134
Flo Reynolds	132
Gilman Stewart	132
Ed Schwendenmann	130
Dee Misiak	123
Nora Larrison	119
Dick Clark	118
Virginia Stewart	114
Sylvia Brand	85

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEED TRANSPORTATION?

Are you 60 or over and have trouble getting transportation to and from your doctor appointments? If you live in Decatur County we may be able to help.

The Greensburg Senior Center operates a transportation program in and around the Greensburg area Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call 663-2232 at least 24 hours in advance or as soon as possible.

Cost: Donations accepted.

The van picks up people for lunch also. Just remember to tell us the day before.

"If you are blue, take a ride with Sue".



Good morning God - Thank You for this beautiful day.  
Church bells are ringing - birds are singing,  
And the sun is well on its way.

But God - I need your help - I'm going to church today,  
And if you have the time Lord - will you teach me how to pray.

I try to be a Christian - I talk to you every day,  
I go to church on Sunday, but I don't know how to pray.

I read the Bible every night before I go to bed,  
And I always talk to you about the things I've done and said,

But the other night when I was asked to pray - I got so scared  
And nervous, I didn't know what to say.

Now you know I love you Lord - and I'm not ashamed to say,  
I have Christ in my heart, but I don't know how to pray.

So God, if you hear me, and when again I try to pray,  
Will you be there beside me and tell me what to say? THANK YOU GOD!

Written by Lois Tichenour Bausback

\*\*\*\*\*

#### WORKING BENEFICIARIES SHOULD UPDATE EARNINGS REPORTS

From: L. D. Dickey, District Manager  
Social Security Administration

It's a good idea about this time of year for people who are receiving Social Security benefits and are still working to check their earnings to make sure the estimate of their annual earnings they made earlier is still accurate. If expected earnings are higher than estimated earlier in the year, they should notify Social Security as soon as possible to avoid problems with the overpayment of benefits. A change in earnings during the year is one of the most frequent causes of overpayment.

Under the law, an annual earnings limit applies to people receiving Social Security benefits who work. In 1990, persons age 65 and over can earn \$9,360 without affecting their Social Security payments. If they do exceed this amount, \$1 in benefits will be withheld from monthly payments for every \$3 of earnings over that limit. For those people under 65, the limit is \$6,840 and \$1 will be withheld for every \$2 of earnings over the limit. There is no limit for people 70 and over.

Social Security Administration phone: 1-800-234-5772

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#### COLUMBUS REPUBLIC

Do you ever read the Saturday issue of the Columbus Republic? They have a section entitled Senior Living. In that section they list what's going on in each County at the various Senior Centers (including Decatur County). They also have special features each week. For instance, on May 19, Orville Pitts and the Creative Writing Class were featured in a nice article.

You might want to pick up a copy sometime!

\*\*\*\*\*

CENTER CLOSED: The Senior Center will be closed on Wednesday July 4th. No activities, transportation or meals will be provided. The staff wishes you all a Happy Holiday.



## THE OLD-TIME MEDICINE SHOW

Folks - Step right up. Ladies, may I have your attention? Does your husband snore at night? And gentlemen, does your wife suffer from light-headedness, ceaseless chattering, uncontrollable conniptions and calorie consumption cravings?

Then you'll want to listen and listen good. Folks, you can't turn back the clock, but you can wind it up again. What I have here is this little bottle of Miracle Serpentine oil. I want to tell you right now - and this is the absolute truth - no matter what ails you, no matter how bad you're feeling, I guarantee you that nothing will work better than this. Now who wants to be the first to take home a bottle of this Miracle tonic? Just hand the money to my pretty assistant (who just happened to be his wife). So barks the medicine man as folks hand over \$2 for the snake oil.

Does anyone remember the medicine shows? They were a part of my fun memories. We moved from the country when I was 12 years old, to a house on East Washington Street in Greensburg. Our house was just down the alley from George Littell's par. Remember the buffalo that were there?

News travels fast in a small community so of course all the kids were excited when the medicine show set up at the park. This was after the horse-drawn vehicle era. They came to town with a few trucks and set up their little stage. Of course all of us kids were right up in front. One particular act that stayed with me was of a fellow who had his face blackened and dressed in old patched clothes that did one of the acts. In fact, I think he was the main one. One of the funny things he said all through the act was - Well, kiss a pig. Of course we picked that right up and there was a lot of pig kissing all summer long.

Some of their entertainment came from the old-time medicine shows. For example, they ask if anyone has a nice white handkerchief. Ed tells them he is going to demonstrate some super-duper soap. He has a small can of axle grease and smears it on the handkerchief; rubs a little of his soap on one corner; dips the hanky in some warm water; swishes it around a bit, and then holds up a sparkling clean hanky. The crowd is impressed. Then Ed sells the soap. After he has sold a few bars, he tells them that what was in the can was not axle grease but pine tar soap. It's an old medicine show gag.

Wouldn't it be fun to have medicine shows again? Of course our laws now would call it mal-practice and fraud which we have anyway.

This is just another of my fun memories from childhood that I wish my grandchildren could experience.

Written for Creative Writing Class by Pansy Cummins

\*\*\*\*\*

## CHEERS & JEERS

**CHEERS** to the folks who helped pay for the cleaning of the carpets at the Center. After all the remodeling, they sure look nice.

**JEERS** to the chewing gum bandits who are also leaving their marks at the Center - unfortunately under tables, chairs and in the newly cleaned carpets! Please dispose of your gum in one of the trash cans located throughout the Center.

\*\*\*\*\*

## TAKE A CHANCE!

Do you want to make a bet that you can keep your cool this summer? It's easy; just drop in at the Senior Center and buy a chance on the floor fan we will be raffling off in June and while you're here, enjoy the air-conditioned comfort at the Center. Take part in activities, read a book or watch a program.



## WHAT IS A DAD?

A dad is special to his family  
he's one of the good guys,  
he's understanding  
and cheer  
a feeling of warmth  
and security.

A dad is a listener  
for all the little happenings  
of the day,  
a sympathizer for all the hurts,  
a mender of everything  
that's broken,  
and a planner of everything that's fun...

Betty Shumaker - money  
Creative Writing Class - money  
Contract Bridge Group - cleaning the  
carpets at the Center

\*\*\*\*\*

### SEE YOU AT THE MOVIES:

Come and join us at the Senior Center  
as we show the hit movie "Three Men and  
a Baby" on July 12th. Show-time is 1:15  
p.m. Popcorn will be served.

### STILL NEED:

With the introduction of videos at the  
Center we could use the following to help  
make the afternoon more enjoyable:

Popcorn  
Oil  
Canned powdered drink mix.  
Thanks for keeping us in mind!

\*\*\*\*\*

### JOIN US AT THE CENTER

We will be celebrating Fathers' Day  
on Monday, June 18th with  
a special musical program beginning at  
12:00 noon. Lunch reservations can be  
made by calling 663-2232 by noon Friday  
June 15th.

Alice Rust will be conducting a book  
review on July 3rd as we celebrate Inde-  
pendence Day. Meal reservations need to  
be made by noon Monday July 2nd. At the  
end of the program we will be drawing  
for the winner of the floor fan raffle.

\*\*\*\*\*

## F-A-T-H-E-R

-13-

I've been around the world you bet,  
But never went to school, hard knocks  
are all I seem to get, perhaps I've been  
a fool; but still some educated folks,  
supposed to be so swell, would fail, if  
they were called upon a simple word to  
spell. Now if you'd like to put me to  
a test, there's a dear name that I can  
spell the best:

"F" is for the fish he always catches  
"A" means that he's always on the ball  
"T" is for the twinkle his eye possesses  
"H" is for the many hats he wears  
"E" means everything he's done to help me

Photographs will be reproduced in pu-  
blications of the Caring Institute and  
will be placed on exhibit in Caring Hall  
in Washington, D.C.

First place prize will be \$175., second  
\$150., and third \$125.

Entries must be received by Friday,  
August 31, 1990.

PICK UP YOUR ENTRY FORM AT THE SENIOR  
CENTER.

\*\*\*\*\*

### BINGO

Eighteen persons were present for the  
bingo games on May 9th. Winners of the  
cake walk were Jessie Evans and Don  
Osting. Ann Ray and Jim Hart won the  
cover-alls.

Other winners were:

Mabel Lutes	Dorothy Jewell
Mary Lou Linville	Jessie Evans
Virginia Forsham	Frances Ralston
Don Osting	Jim Hart
Marge Schwarber	Ann Ray
Catherine Rethlake	Clara Feldman

\*SPECIAL NOTE: beginning in June, we will  
not be having a cake walk. Instead, we  
will play an extra game.

\*\*\*\*\*

COLD FEET. Not all historians realize  
that Thomas Jefferson soaked his feet  
every day in a tub of ice water. AND,  
Abe Lincoln always moved his lips when  
he read.

From Boyd's Book of Odd Facts . . . .



## THE OLD-TIME MEDICINE SHOW

Folks - Step right up. Ladies, may I have your attention? Does your husk snore at night? And gentlemen, does your wife suffer from light-headedness, celess chattering, uncontrollable conniptions and calorie consumption cravings?

Then you'll want to listen and listen good. Folks, you can't turn back the clock, but you can wind it up again. What I have here is this little bottle of Miracle Serpentine oil. I want to tell you right now - and this is the absolute truth - no matter what ails you, no matter how bad you're feeling, I guarantee that nothing will work better than this. Now who wants to be the first to take a bottle of this Miracle tonic? Just hand the money to my pretty assistant (who just happened to be his wife). So barks the medicine man as folks hand over \$2 the snake oil.

Does anyone remember the medicine shows? They were a part of my fun memory. We moved from the country when I was 12 years old, to a house on East Washington Street in Greensburg. Our house was just down the street. The Chaplain gave a closing prayer.

### \*\*\*\*\* DECEASED NAMES \*\*\*\*\*

Don Jennings, Leon Hart, Stephen Scott, Don Rudicell, Bob Arnold, Albert "Joe" Miller, Glea Cradick, Max Major, Raymond Burrough, Herman Bewley, Sam Dotson, Claude Lawrence, Robert Tompkins, Glenn Francis, Ted Thewes, Clifford Johnston, Walter Robbins, Willard Becraft, George Amrhein, Mary Kathryn Halloran, Peg Klene, Mary Patterson, Alice Julian, Helen Davis, Joy Hadler, Nell Lester, Marge Tumilty, Sarah Newman, Delores Nienaber, Bertha Oaks, Aline Craig, Ruth Davis, Eileen Thackery, Mildred Greer, Rosaline Gerling, Lillian Ray, Frances Robbins and Betty Keene.

### \*\*\*\*\*

## OLDER AMERICANS' MONTH

We celebrated the month of May - "Older Americans' Month" - in style this year. I'd like to thank all those who came in some time during the month! Special events included the public hearing for Decatur County residents; our 8th Annual Art Show; Queen Contest and Older Hoosier Presentation; Video and popcorn parties; speaker Marilyn Rand; National Senior Center Week; Mothers' Day program, Senior Citizens' Day in Columbus; Senior games; speaker Pat Smith; afghan raffle; quilt raffle; and more!

It sounds like a very busy month! (and it was!) Thanks to all who participated to make this a special time!

### \*\*\*\*\*

## FIVE HUNDRED

Is anyone interested in playing 500 on Wednesday afternoons?

Call the Center and leave your name and phone number.

### \*\*\*\*\*

## GRASS CUTTING

We have the names of a couple of people interested in cutting grass. If you need your lawn mowed, call the Center, 663-2232.

## MORE NEW BOOKS

A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION; for getting the best medical care, by Kurt Link - guidelines on choosing a doctor, choosing health insurance and explaining medical tests and medicine.

UNCOMMON GENIUS; how great ideas are born, by Denise G. Shekerjian - a guide in cultivating personal creativity.

VISIT YOUR LIBRARY ; YOU'LL FIND MANY FRIENDS THERE.



## WHAT IS A DAD?

F-A-T-H-E-R

-13-

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and cheer  
a feeling of warmth  
and security.

A dad is a listener  
for all the little happenings  
of the day,  
a sympathizer for all the hurts,  
a mender of everything  
that's broken,  
and a planner of everything that's fun...

A dad has a head full of brains  
that he seldom gets credit for  
and a back full of pains  
that nobody hears about:  
He's dear to his family  
because they know  
he will do anything,  
dare anything,  
and fight for anything  
that means their happiness .....

A dad seldom hears how great he is  
until a special day arrives,  
and then he gets the works  
compliments, praise,  
thanks, wishes, and love  
hope he knows they are meant  
for every day of the year!

Copied . . . .

\*\*\*\*\*

FLAG DAY, June 14; FATHERS' DAY, June 17;  
FIRST DAY of SUMMER, June 21

\*\*\*\*\*

### THURSDAY AFTERNOON CONTRACT BRIDGE

May 3-	
Gertrude Wisswell	4190
Louise Doerflinger	3330
Dorothy Hubbard	3050

May 17-	
Corinne Moulton	3990
Louise Doerflinger	3470
Rosalie Robbins	2970

Bring enough persons to fill a table and  
join us. We meet at 1 p.m. the first  
and Thursdays of each month.

I've been around the world you bet,  
But never went to school, hard knocks  
are all I seem to get, perhaps I've been  
a fool; but still some educated folks,  
supposed to be so swell, would fail, if  
they were called upon a simple word to  
spell. Now if you'd like to put me to  
a test, there's a dear name that I can  
spell the best:

"F" is for the fish he always catches  
"A" means that he's always on the ball  
"T" is for the twinkle his eye possesses  
"H" is for the many hats he wears  
"E" means everything he's done to help me  
"R" is righteous, that he is you see

Put them all together, they spell father,  
A word that means the world to me!

When I was but a baby long before I  
learned to walk, While lying in my cradle,  
I would try my best to talk. It wasn't  
long before I spoke, and all the neigh-  
bors heard, my folks were very proud of  
me, for "Father" was the word. Although  
I'll never lay a claim to fame, I'm satis-  
fied that I can spell the name,

"F" is for the frogs we chase together  
"A" means that we're always laughing too  
"T" is for the Tee-off weekends  
"H" is for the hard work around the house  
"E" is for the Etiquette he teaches  
"R" means right and right he'll always be

Put them all together, they spell "Father"  
A word that means the world to me!

Copied . . .

\*\*\*\*\*

### "Habla Español?"

Translated this means, "Do you speak  
Spanish"? If your answer is "No, but I've  
always wanted to learn", come and sign up  
for Spanish Class beginning July 3rd.

Classes will be held at the Center on  
Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9 to  
10 a.m. Maria Showers will be teaching  
the classes which will last from 6 weeks.

The cost will be twelve dollars (\$12.)  
which includes all materials and instruc-  
tion.

Call us at 663-2232 for further details,  
and sign up for an enjoyable and enlight-  
ening adventure in language.



TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER:

If you wish to renew your membership or apply for a new one, please send three dollars (\$3.00) for each membership desired along with a SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE to Beulah Mae Knarr, Treasurer, 624 East North Street, Greensburg, Indiana.

You may also mail your request or bring it in to the Greensburg Senior Center, 225 East Main Street, Greensburg, Indiana. Please include the following information:

YOUR name, address, phone number, date of birth, person to contact in case of emergency, THEIR phone number, your doctor, and any health problems you may have.

SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTER  
225 EAST MAIN STREET  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA  
47240

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PD.  
PERMIT NO. 9  
GREENSBURG, IN.  
47240

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\*  
\* Sheldon & Elizabeth Smith  
\* 518 N. East St.  
\* Greensburg, IN. 47240  
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